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Frances Lawrence's crusade hinges on prison reform
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Lost forever: a nation's heritage looted by its own people



A cast of a poet from the lost Bagram collection

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

AFGHANISTAN has lost its past to war. Great palaces and mansions are destroyed, historical monuments have been shelled, the National Museum is rubble. Every item of state treasure has been smashed, sold or stolen. Few countries have been so systematically raped by their own people.

The plunder and destruction began after the former Soviet Union invaded in 1979. The country disintegrated socially and economically, but arguably as disastrous has been

the destruction of its heritage — which was unique because of Afghanistan's position at the crossroads of commerce and conquest for thousands of years.

The National Museum held one of the world's greatest multicultural antique collections: Persian, Indian, Chinese, Central Asian and beyond. The Russians respected and protected the relics, but American-backed Mujahidin rebels saw them as ready cash, to be blasted out of their vaults and hauled away to buyers across the world. The collection can never be reassembled, or even located. Pottery from prehistory was

bundled into bags like cheap china: ivory statues of Indian courtesans from the 2nd century AD were stuffed into the pockets of gummen and carted off to Pakistan to be sold for a song, eventually turning up on the world's antique art markets for huge sums.

The Bagram collection, one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century, disappeared — 1,800 lacquers, bronzes, ivories, glassware items and statues from ancient Rome, Greece, India, China, Egypt and Central Asia. The trove, some of it dating from the 1st century, was discovered northeast of Kabul in

1939 in two sealed rooms. This was the site of Kapisa, summer capital of Kanishka, King of the Kushans. In the 2nd century the emperors of Rome and the Han emperors of China avidly exchanged their most exotic products with the Kushan Empire, many of which were found at Bagram. Some were probably from a Kushan national museum. Of this, nothing is left.

More than 40,000 coins, among them some of the world's oldest from prehistory, vanished. Afghan and Pakistani politicians were key players in the plunder of these and other items from the National

Museum, and it is known that one piece is held by Major-General (retired) Naserullah Babar, the Pakistani Home Minister, who bought it for three million rupees (£57,000). He says he will return it when there is peace in Afghanistan.

A marble fountain bowl, found near the tomb of Babar (1403-1530), first of the six Great Moguls, has gone. Lorryloads of items from Afghan prehistory — Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic — were carried away like junk, to be sold for pennies, or dumped because they seemed worthless. Of the entire vast collection, the whereabouts of only

13,000 pieces was known up to 1994. In and around Kabul the destruction of the architectural heritage is almost absolute. There is one strange survivor: the modest marble tomb of Babar, sitting on a hill overlooking the capital, its marble canopy bullet-holed and broken, but the tomb itself in perfect condition save for some carved graffiti. It is the centrepiece of a once beautiful park, its lush gardens returned to desert, its trees chopped to stumps for firewood. The Persian inscription

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Embattled Talehans, page 15

'Good citizen' prize honours stabbed head

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ANNUAL good citizenship award for young people is to be set up in the name of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence, Michael Howard announces today.

The Home Secretary says that the memorial award, which will recognise outstanding contributions towards the community, is one of a series of ideas being considered by the Government to improve society.

Ministers also aim to reduce violence on TV, to announce a scheme by the end of the year to identify potential offenders and turn them away from crime, and to establish a national network to prevent crime and combat violence. That might include a "mentor" system where adults are asked to befriend and supervise individual young people.

Writing in *The Times* today, Mr Howard says that details of the citizenship award will be discussed with Mr Lawrence's widow, Frances, who this week launched her own campaign to reverse the deterioration of society. The Home Secretary writes: "In taking forward the values for which he (Mr Lawrence) stood, we can at the same time honour his memory."

Mr Lawrence was last night delighted by the announcement. "The children and I are profoundly moved that the Government wishes to mark Philip's life in this way,"

she said. "I also hope that plans to put lessons in citizenship at the heart of the curriculum will go ahead."

She and her family had been heartened by the enormous support that she had received from all quarters. "I am taking stock of all the suggestions made and hope in the next few days to see how we can translate hopes into action."

Mr Howard's initiatives came as all three party leaders endorsed Mrs Lawrence's manifesto. Mrs Lawrence has had meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr Howard and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and she is also expected to meet Tony Blair and his education spokesman, David Blunkett.

Yesterday ministers and shadow ministers vied to outdo each other by announcing or confirming a series of initiatives in response to her programme — although Mrs Shephard, who announced that the Government was to pilot good citizenship classes, denied that politicians were being driven to action by public movements such as Mrs Lawrence's and the Dubliners' Snowdrop campaign against guns.

Mr Blair backed her call for lessons on good citizenship to be included in the national curriculum and said Mrs Lawrence had done a real service for the country. John

Major said that Mrs Lawrence had "touched a chord" and had strong support from the Government, while Paddy Ashdown said that she was speaking for "millions of Britons."

One of Mrs Lawrence's proposals was a ban on the sale of combat knives and while Mr Howard does not commit the Government to that, he indicates in his *Times* article that he intends to extend the ban on the sale of knives to the under 16s which comes into effect on January 1.

He also says that a green paper will be published soon to extend the tagging system to cover young offenders and further legislation will be introduced to make it easier for schools to discipline disruptive pupils.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, meanwhile announced that he would be putting forward plans to introduce special parenting classes to advise teenagers and young adults of the difficulties of bringing up a family.

Mr Straw will also propose new "parental responsibility orders" which would require parents to take counselling sessions or attend classes if a court found that they were not looking after their children properly.

Grassroots movement, page 7
Michael Howard and Libby Purves, page 18



Cardinal Basil Hume launches the Catholic church's policy document yesterday

Ministers clash over Catholic Church's 'pro-left manifesto'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Catholic Church last night faced a barrage of criticism after advocating a range of left-leaning policies in a pre-election manifesto designed to remind Catholics of the church's teaching on social issues.

Although bishops denied that the document favoured any political party, their support of key Labour policies such as a national minimum wage prompted criticism from Tory MPs and ministers.

But two ministers appeared to be at odds over the document. While Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, attacked its support for a minimum wage, Ann Widdecombe, a junior Home Office minister and leading Catholic, claimed that the document had been misrepresented.

She repeated the church's view that the document did not advocate a minimum wage, but merely stated that the policy was not prohibited under Catholic teaching.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, claimed the church's views tallied with Labour's. "We think the values they are espousing, and the hope that they want to see for the future, is in line with the stance and the promises of the Labour Party." Launching

the 35-page document yesterday, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said it did not attempt to propose specific solutions to complex social, economic and political questions. "Much less is it a directive to people how they should vote," he said. "That would be quite improper on the part of us the bishops. We expect Catholics to study what we have said and vote in accordance with a properly informed conscience."

However, the document, titled *The Common Good*, condemns the "unlimited free market", says the decline in trade union membership is "not necessarily a healthy sign", and speaks warmly of Britain's membership of the European Union. "It is possible to be both British and European," it says. The report demands that workers should

Continued on page 2, col 6



"I've got a friend who would like a few words with you, too"

Leading article, page 19

Oxford student, 18, found dead in bed

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PROMISING Oxford classics student has been found dead in her college bed one week into her first term. Police were last night investigating how Rachel Steer, 18, from Surbiton in Surrey, died. No

one else was believed to have been involved and a post-mortem examination is being held today.

Rachel arrived at Oxford two weeks ago and was thought to be settling in well at St Hilda's, the university's last all-female college. Dr Jane Taylor, the Dean, said: "We have no idea of the cause of death. She was a most promising student and perfectly cheerful."

Her tutor was very impressed both with her quality of work and the way she was dealing with it. Her friends say she had a lovely sense of humour. She was a lovely, happy, intelligent, pretty girl."

Dr Taylor added that Rachel's friends had seen her on Sunday and raised the alarm when she did not turn up to lectures yesterday.

Ruth's parents travelled to the college yesterday where they were being comforted by the Principal, Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith.

Manchester loses to Wembley

Wembley looked almost certain to be chosen as the site of the new national stadium after the governing bodies of football, rugby league and athletics gave it unanimous backing over the rival bid from Manchester.

Although the £200 million cost of rebuilding the 74-year-old arena would be higher, the worldwide reputation of the twin-tower stadium gave Wembley the edge. A final decision is expected from the Sports Council by the end of the year after prolonged postponements. Page 52

Former Tory MP joins Labour

A former Conservative MP has joined the Labour Party. Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, 62, a management consultant, was the only Tory MP to join the SDP in 1981 but lost his seat at the 1983 general election. He has since unsuccessfully fought parliamentary seats as an SDP/Alliance candidate and as a Liberal Democrat candidate.

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Murder witness to give away £250,000 reward

BY ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH tourist whose evidence helped to convict Ivan Milat, the Australian "backpacker murderer", says he will give a £250,000 reward to charity and the victims' families.

Paul Onions, 30, told Channel Nine television in Australia: "I would like to donate all the money to the victims' families and the New South Wales Homicide Support Group." He added: "Surely there should be some morals left where you don't need money to give evidence."



Onions: "special man"

Yesterday Mr Onions was praised by Jacqueline Clarke, whose daughter Caroline, 21, was murdered by Milat along with her travelling companion Joanne Walters, 22, of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan.

"He sounds like a very special young man. It is an extremely generous gesture and very unusual in this day and age."

"All the families were so grateful for what he did that I am sure none of them would begrudge him keeping at least a small amount of the money for himself," Mrs Clarke, of Slaley, Northumberland, said.

Mr Onions was the only known survivor of an attack by Milat, 51, who was jailed

for life in July for murdering seven backpackers. His identification of the killer was crucial in securing a conviction. The reward was offered by Australian Police before Milat's capture.

The air-conditioning engineer from Willenhall, in the West Midlands, was on a backpacking tour of Australia in 1990 when he was given a lift by Milat. He narrowly escaped death when his attacker shot at him, and wrestled him to the ground alongside the Sydney-Melbourne road. Mr Onions escaped by throwing himself in front of an oncoming car, forcing it to stop.

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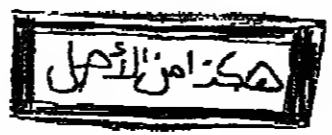
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Howard drops sex offenders register

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a national register of sex offenders in Britain have been dropped from the Government's main law and order initiative for the next session of parliament.

The proposal is one of several measures aimed at providing greater protection to the public which ministers have been forced to abandon because there is not enough time to pass them before the general election next year.

Among the casualties are plans to make it an offence for convicted paedophiles to seek employment with children, extending DNA testing to allow samples to be taken from all convicted sex offenders in prison and making convicted sex offenders notify police of any change of address.

Michael Howard had hoped to include the measures allowing police to track the movement of paedophiles and other sex offenders in the crime bill to be published later this week. He has had to drop the idea so that the Bill, the flag ship measure of the next session, is focused on automatic life sentences for second time rapists and minimum jail terms for third time burglars and drug dealers.

The decision not to include the proposals in the Bill is a bitter disappointment to police and children's groups who had backed Mr Howard's plan to force convicted sex offenders to put their names on the police national computer.

Michelle Elliott of Kidscape, a children's charity, said the move would let down parents throughout the country. "I am shocked. This was one of the most important measures along with gun controls announced by the government. It is madness not to proceed as children need urgent protection from paedophiles."

Under the home secretary's plan, a convicted sex offender's name would be placed on

the register allowing police to track their movements in England and Wales. It would be an offence not to inform the police of a change of address.

Mr Howard planned that the requirement to register would be for life for anyone give a life sentence or prison term of more than thirty months. The Government has already shelved plans for a Bill introducing a national identity card amid fears that it would provoke divisions within the Conservative party in the run up to the election.

Tomorrow's speech will not include the home secretary's plan to increase public safety by giving employers access to job applicants' criminal records. The proposal, unveiled in a White Paper four months ago, included the creation of a Criminal Records Agency which would charge job seekers for providing information about criminal records.

Employers would be entitled to ask an applicant to present a document disclosing any unspent convictions. The Criminal Records Agency would provide a Criminal Conviction Certificate to a job applicant for less than £20.

Government sources said that Private Members' Bill could be used to put some of the abandoned measures into law though in Whitehall it was predicted that none would be on the statute book before the general election.

Alternatively the government is considering the unusual step of publishing draft Bills which would include the measures and then put them in the Conservative party's general election manifesto.

A nationwide hunt has been launched William Knowles, 35, a convicted paedophile who absconded from a bail hostel. Knowles, formerly from Hull, was jailed for two years in March for abducting a nine-year-old boy.



An ivory panel depicting Indian courtesans is among the lost treasures of Bagam

A nation's heritage looted

Continued from page 1
The remains of Babar, who died in Agra, were returned to Kabul, the town he loved, in 1646 by Emperor Shah Jehan, builder of the Taj Mahal, who also built Babar's tomb and a mosque alongside it.

The mosque is bomb-damaged and peppered with bullet holes. It is a silent place, set amid mile upon mile of ruins.



An ivory console, a bronze lamp support and a bust of Mars have also vanished

Confined from page 1
Ten miles out of Kabul, the Victory Arch, built in the central square of Paghman village by King Amanullah to commemorate victory in the 1919 War of Independence against Britain, is largely destroyed. The nobility built a profusion of public buildings and palaces in Paghman; all are rubble.

King Amanullah also built Darulaman Palace in Kabul, a



masterpiece but now a bombed-out shell. Up the hill are the remains of a castle, now occupied by a dozen Taleban soldiers who have positioned a tank on the front terrace, giving clear fire to anywhere in the city. These buildings have been looted of everything worthwhile. Like so much of Afghanistan,

Embattled Taleban, page 15

Church

Continued from page 1
not be treated as commodities and rejects the "trickle-down" theory that wealth creation automatically benefits the poor. It criticises the increasing job losses incurred when firms "downsize" their workforces to boost shareholder profits. It also backs Tony Blair's call for all members of the economic process, including workers, to be treated as "stakeholders".

The 13,000-word paper, which will be sent to all 2,800 parishes in England and Wales, gives its strongest warning to employers that they have a duty to pay a just wage. "If employers do not do this voluntarily, Catholic social teaching would allow the state to make them do so by means of a statutory minimum wage, either nationally or in some sectors. It is not morally acceptable to seek to reduce unemployment by letting wages fall below the level at which employees can sustain a decent standard of living."

Mr Clarke said a minimum wage would be a "quite disastrous" way of raising the standard of living in all sections of society. "You would not create more jobs that people can move to from benefit," he told the BBC's *World at One*. "What you would do is destroy jobs and increase unemployment."

Miss Widdicombe, who converted to the Catholic Church when the Church of England accepted women priests, said: "What the document actually says is that Catholic social teaching would allow a minimum wage. If a politician proposed a minimum wage, it would not be unacceptable to Catholic social teaching, but it is not necessarily advocating a minimum wage."

One area where the bishops are at odds with Labour policy is that of abortion, which they condemn unreservedly. Labour, while saying abortion is a matter for its MPs' consciences in any Commons vote, broadly supports the woman's right to choose.

The document was welcomed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. "The Catholic social teaching has developed over many years as a splendid exposition of Christian values and principles shared by other churches," he said. "They have much to offer our nation and are not the preserve of any one political party."

Leading article, page 19

How Catholic church informs voters' choice

The Roman Catholic church has urged its 4.4 million members in England and Wales to study a manifesto-style document in *The Common Good*. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said: "We expect Catholics to vote in accordance with a properly informed conscience." These are the main points:

MINIMUM WAGE

Employers... have a duty to pay a just wage, the level of which should take account of the needs of the individual and not just his or her value on the so-called labour market. If employers do not do this voluntarily, Catholic social teaching would allow the State to make them do so by means of a statutory minimum wage.

Tories: completely opposed.
Labour: in favour, but refuses to state precise figure.

STAKEHOLDING

The economy exists for the human person, not the other way round. Any enterprise has a range of "stakeholders", shareholders, suppliers, managers, workers, consumers, the community. None of these interests should prevail to the extent that it excludes the interests of the others.

Tories: opposed if it means old-style corporatism, in favour if greater opportunity and individual choice.
Labour: a key theme championed by Tony Blair.

ABORTION

The bishops remind Catholic voters of the "alarming extent" to which Britain has become an example of what the Pope called a culture of death. In the three decades since the passage of the Abortion Act, human life has been devalued to the extent where abortion is widely regarded as a remedy for any social or personal difficulty. "We have to raise our voices in protest against all destruction of human life in the womb."

Tories: no policy, a matter of individual conscience.
Labour: backs the right of women to choose, but a matter of conscience for MPs in Commons' votes.

THE MARKET ECONOMY

The Roman Catholic church recognises the positive value of the market. But sometimes market forces cannot deliver what the common good demands. The Roman Catholic doctrine of the common good is incompatible with unlimited free market capitalism... market forces are just as likely to lead to evil results as to good ones.

Tories: backs market as best way of distributing goods and services.
Labour: similar to Tories but opposes unfettered free-marketism.

TRADE UNIONS

The bishops uphold the right to join a trade union as a manifestation of the principle of solidarity. Roman Catholics have been reminded that where possible they should join a trade union. The bishops' conference of England and Wales noted that the decline in union membership in recent years is paralleled by people's high degree of dissatisfaction with their working lives.

Tories: accepts unions but has cut their powers radically. Believes workers should also have right not to be in union.
Labour: Pro-unions but may break formal links.

TRICKLE-DOWN EFFECT

There must come a point at which the gap between the very wealthy and those at the bottom of the range of income begins to undermine the common good. This is the point at which society starts to be run for the benefit of the rich. Some ideological thinkers advocate this approach. We would question their proposition that the further enrichment of the wealthy must, as the inevitable result of economic laws, eventually improve the lot of the poor.

Tories: wealth creation, especially through entrepreneurship, is good for society, particularly in the creation of jobs.
Labour: backs wealth creation but not if it simply makes the rich richer and the poor poorer.

EUROPE

One of the most important issues facing this country is its future relationship with the rest of Europe - and not just with the European Union. Local loyalties and commitments should be fostered, but they should not be set in opposition to these wider expressions of solidarity.

Tories: broadly hostile to Europe, opposing greater powers to Brussels' institutions.
Labour: broadly positive to Europe, accepting social chapter, but like the Tories, divided over a single currency.

BILL OF RIGHTS

The Roman Catholic Church is aware that there are various proposals to strengthen the protection of human rights in Britain, such as the framing of a Bill of Rights. It says some strengthening seems necessary, related to the need for a system of common values if democratic society is to be healthy.

Tories: opposed to Bill of Rights or incorporating European Convention on Human Rights into British law.
Labour: supports incorporation of the convention.

COMPANY DOWNSIZING

Employers need reminding that employees constitute "social capital", a reservoir of human effort, wisdom and experience. Accountancy that disregards such assets in the valuation of a concern or in drawing up a balance sheet is inevitably guilty of false accounting. Dumping of "social capital" is a prevalent cause of social injustice in modern society. It often occurs in company "downsizing" operations associated with takeovers, closures and mergers.

Tories: job losses a necessary evil in flexible market; must be cushioned by social security and job creation schemes.
Labour: critical, especially in newly privatised industries.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Where such social provisions as health and education are concerned, the common good requires a supervising authority that can step in with remedies as soon as deficiencies become apparent.

Tories: in favour of giving parents greater choice to choose schools with less local authority involvement.
Labour: broadly in favour of greater local authority input but not keen on spending much more money.

QUANGOS

Public confidence is undermined, and democracy subverted, when the members of public authorities responsible for the common good are not appointed democratically or on objective merit.

Tories: in favour, radically increased numbers during last 17 years.
Labour: opposed, pledges to cut quangos.

NHS 'should cover prisons' Legal aid change pursued

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE PRISON medical service should be scrapped and care for the 57,300 inmates in jails handed over to the National Health Service, according to a report by the chief inspector of prisons.

Sir David Ramsbottom calls for an overhaul of health care in jails after criticising the existing service for failing to match NHS standards.

He highlights the care of pregnant women, accusing

the Prison Service of not catering adequately for them.

The Chief Inspector of Prisons says that immediate action is needed to put increased care for mentally ill prisoners. He recommends new units for mentally disordered offenders and the ability to provide round-the-clock care.

His findings were leaked to *Channel Four News* last night after months of internal wran-

gling in the Prison Service. It is understood that parts of the document were re-written after complaints about inaccuracies and criticism from the Department of Health and the National Health Service.

Sir David, who will publish his report on Friday, warns the Government that doctors and staff in the prison medical service have become isolated from colleagues and suffer low status.

The Government intends to press ahead with plans to overhaul the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme, even without legislation, the Lord Chancellor says today.

In an article in *The Times*, Lord Mackay of Clashfern says that many of the measures can be achieved under existing legislation. He outlines a five-year programme for reform which he says is not about cutting the present level

of spending, but ensuring that "available resources go further to help more people".

Changes at the top of the agenda include the awarding of block contracts by the Legal Aid Board to advice agencies and law firms, with the first contracts expected next year. Contracts for family mediators will follow. The Legal Aid Board has also started work on one-off contracts for expensive cases, starting with multi-

party actions, and contracts with law firms to provide duty solicitor cover at police stations and courts.

The measures were only the start of a long and complex programme, Lord Mackay says. "We remain determined to make the necessary changes to the legal aid scheme and look forward to pressing ahead with the reforms."

Law, page 41

Rantzen Report 'was reasonable'

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

AN Esther Rantzen programme that investigated the treatment of a brain-injured patient at a south London hospital contained minor errors which resulted in a "degree of unfairness", a BBC inquiry has found.

But *The Rantzen Report's* journalistic integrity was not in doubt and the programme makers drew "reasonable conclusions" from the evidence available to them, a spokesman for the BBC complaints unit said.

The internal inquiry was launched after John Ware, another BBC journalist, launched an attack on the programme via a national newspaper last August. Mr Ware, who has produced work for *Panorama* and *Rough*

Justice, accused *The Rantzen Report* of "twisting the facts" when it said Ian Parker lacked stimulation and was neglected at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables.

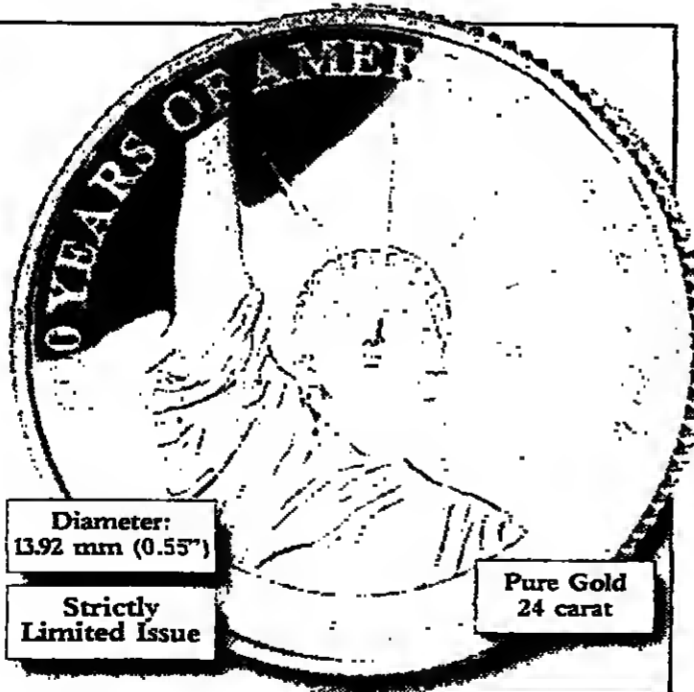
Mr Ware said the programme on advocacy had also used a hidden camera in the hospital without justification. Yesterday Mr Ware was reprimanded for making his criticisms public without clearing them with the BBC.

The spokesman said *The Rantzen Report*: "In the light of later evidence, it appears that the programme contained some errors. Though these were minor in themselves, they involved a degree of unfairness to the hospital. This did not invalidate however, the programme's overall argument on the topic of advocacy."

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'Dead' backpacker returns in time for funeral



Cunningham: did not report lost passport for a month

BY ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BACKPACKER flies home to Britain from the Far East today to be reunited with the family who believed he was dead. Even his funeral had been arranged. Paul Cunningham, 25, was reported to have swallowed 43 condoms packed with heroin, one of which had burst in his stomach. However, the news of his death proved to be exaggerated after the Foreign Office uncovered a case of mistaken identity involving a stolen, doctored passport.

Penang in Malaysia, where there is an international airport. He is thought to have been thrown out of a taxi by colleagues after he became ill. Having crossed the Thai border at Sadao successfully, he was found lying in a coma by the roadside in Butterworth in northern Malaysia. The British Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was notified on October 10 after Mr Cunningham's passport was found on the dying man. The drug traffickers are thought to have bought the passport on the black market and doctored it with a bogus photograph. Mr Cunningham, a university graduate, did not report it missing for nearly a month. The first Mr Cunningham knew of his "death" was when he walked into the British Embassy in Bangkok to ask for a replacement.

Shocked officials told him: "We thought you were dead. Even your funeral has been arranged." Mr Cunningham's mother Do-reen, 49, said she went through "ten days of absolute hell" after hearing the news that her son had died. She said last night: "I feel as if I'm in the middle of a dream. The last ten days have been an absolute nightmare." Mrs Cunningham, a mother of two from Oadby, Leicestershire, said after her son telephoned her: "Paul hadn't got a clue what was going on. He had no idea about the grieving at home and continued on his travels. To be told your son is dead and then he is alive is unreal. I can hardly describe my swing in emotions. I keep pinching myself to check it's real." She added: "At the time I could

never imagine he was involved in drugs. He means so much to me. It was the worst thing a mother could ever imagine. I must have phoned the Foreign Office a dozen times to check there hadn't been a dreadful mistake. But I suppose when you have a son of that age you never know exactly what they are up to." Paul's father Ruel, 52, said embassy officials were positive it was his son who had died. "I am just extremely relieved to know that everything said about him was totally untrue. We always believed in him." A spokeswoman for Leicestershire police said: "Our officers acted on the request of the Foreign Office to inform Mr Cunningham's family that he had died while in Malaysia. However, the Foreign Office later informed the force that

Mr Cunningham was alive and well in Bangkok." A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Apparently Mr Cunningham lost his passport in September and reported it to the embassy only on Friday. During that time his passport was doctored and found on the body of the dead man. "We regret the distress caused to the family but the good news is that he is alive and well. Had we been notified earlier of the loss of the passport we would have asked for much more investigation by the Malaysian authorities." He added: "It is a very tragic case. Something like this is a terrible trauma for the parents and family to go through. We will be investigating it further."

Mr Cunningham had spent six months visiting an uncle in New York before exploring Australia and Thailand, where he is believed to have lost his passport on September 18. The Foreign Office has mounted an "intensive" investigation into a report that Christopher Howes, thought to have been taken by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, may still be alive. Mr Howes, 36, a mines expert, had been feared dead months after his capture in March. A Foreign Office spokesman said in London yesterday that they were making intensive inquiries following the report. "We are urging the Cambodian authorities to look at it thoroughly and we are seeking further information from our ambassador in Phnom Penh. But until we have hard evidence it is yet another report that we can neither confirm nor deny."

Midshipman says officers leered at porn film and captain tried to kiss her

Navy woman tells of sex taunts in the wardroom

By Emma Wilkins

A ROYAL Navy commander dressed as Julius Caesar tried to kiss a woman midshipman in centurion's clothing during a fancy dress party in the Falkland Islands, it was claimed yesterday. Claire McGarrity, 25, who was dismissed from the Royal Navy last year, brought her case before an industrial tribunal, claiming that she had been the victim of sexual discrimination. She told about pornographic videos being shown in the officers' mess and of how the ship's captain, a commander, touched her on the hips while reading maps on the bridge. Miss McGarrity told the hearing that she had tried to avoid him at the party but he eventually he approached her and remarked that it would be "jolly" if they danced together. "Towards the end of the evening the captain said he was surprised I had not danced with him. He pulled my hands and took me to dance. "As he did so he tried to kiss me and I pulled away quite sharply, feigned an excuse and rushed back to my living accommodation." Miss McGarrity, from Newcastle upon Tyne, told the hearing in Exeter. The tribunal has ordered that neither the captain nor his ship be identified. Miss McGarrity also claimed that the captain touched her on the hips while they were studying navigation charts behind a curtain on the bridge. "He put his hands on my hips and moved me

around the chart table, so he could see the navigation work being done by myself. I felt it was unnecessary as there was enough room to see. I did not complain because he was a commander and I was a midshipman, and I was frightened." Miss McGarrity, who was one of three women trainee officers on board, began to avoid her male colleagues in the wardroom after finding them watching a pornographic video. Instead of eating with her fellow officers, she had sandwiches alone in her cabin. "On one occasion I was unfortunate enough to walk in on a particularly embarrassing video, which I did not think was appropriate," she said. "It was a video being shown to the male officers. I said it should not be shown because it is embarrassing and upsetting when your colleagues are leering at the screen. It makes you feel embarrassed to be a female. "The male crew members would go out for drinks. When they returned, they would talk about their sexual conquests. Then they would ask me what I did and who I was with. I said it was none of their business, but it just got worse. It was unacceptable. There wasn't a day that passed without comments being made." She said that male colleagues asked her to find out if the other women trainees were having a lesbian affair. She admitted having an affair with a male junior rating and said

she was surprised and upset later when the captain recommended that she should be withdrawn from training and flown home from the Falklands. "I had been told by the captain I had improved and that it was unfortunate I was leaving when he was just starting to like me so much," she said. Under cross-examination by Martin Meeke, for the Royal Navy, she agreed that she had been warned about her relationship with the rating and was criticised for spending too much time with the lower ranks. Mr Meeke quoted from a report by the captain which described the relationship as "unacceptably close." The Navy says that Miss McGarrity was not dismissed, but resigned after being sent home from Dartmouth when officers recommended that she be withdrawn from training. A spokesman for the Royal Navy said all serving personnel knew that forming a sexual relationship with a colleague on board was a disciplinary offence, which could ultimately result in a court martial. He added that the service was keen to attract women. "We want to encourage more women to join the Royal Navy to have a sailing career." He also said that the showing of pornographic films was "actively discouraged", but could not be completely prevented. The tribunal was adjourned until today.



Claire McGarrity yesterday: she claims she was the victim of sex discrimination

The ears have it for witness in theft case

By a Staff Reporter

THE main witness in a theft case remained silent on the stand yesterday, but in a crucial test of identification allowed members of the jury to examine his ears. Darwin, an 18-month-old lemon-coloured foxhound, stood patiently in the witness box as the 12 jurors filed past to inspect distinctive markings in its ears. The South Dorset Hunt, based in Lyme Regis, has accused the owner of a pet sanctuary of stealing the £750 dog from a hunt trainer. The English foxhound has tattoos on the inside of both ears, reading SD and 18, which identify it as belonging to the South Dorset Hunt. Lorraine Drake, 45, who runs the PALS sanctuary in Newton Tony, Wiltshire, is accused of stealing the hound between July 14 and July 26 last year. She also faces two alternative charges of receiving and disposing of the stolen dog. The prosecution alleges that Ms Drake stole Darwin from a farm in Winfrith, Dorset, where the puppy was being prepared for hunting. Justin Gau, for the prosecution, told Bournemouth Crown Court that the dog was renamed Bertie the Beagle and sold to an unsuspecting local vicar, the Rev Frank Collins. The army padre, who is based at Bulford, Wiltshire, bought the puppy for his four children for £125. They were thrilled with the animal and changed his name once again - to Huckleberry Hound. Mr Gau told the court: "Ms Drake told Mr Collins the dog was a foxhound. She said he had come from a hunt and if the Reverend looked in the animal's ear he would see tattoos which were a mark of the hunt." Mr Collins made inquiries

and discovered that the foxhound he had been sold was missing from the South Dorset Hunt. Ms Drake was arrested and interviewed by Wiltshire police. She told detectives that she did not know the dog was stolen. Yesterday afternoon Darwin bounded into the witness stand, close on the heels of Edward Knowles, Master of the South Dorset Hunt. As Mr Knowles gave evidence the dog stood quietly behind him, occasionally leaping up on to his back legs to look around the courtroom. Mr Knowles told the hearing that foxhounds did not make good pets and could not be sold to anyone who was not a member of the Master of Foxhounds' Association. He said that it was common knowledge all hunt dogs had identifying marks tattooed in their ears. Ms Drake denies the charges against her. The trial continues.



Darwin stood patiently in the witness box

Wallace and Gromit survive New York



Nick Park after his models were returned to him. "It's like getting my lost children back," he said

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

A TELEPHONE call before dawn yesterday from a New York taxi driver ended the hunt for the missing cartoon puppets Wallace and Gromit. The 25-year-old cabbie, slightly mystified to find himself at the centre of an international mystery, rang to say that he had found some Plasticine objects in the boot of his Chevrolet, bumping around in their travelling case next to the spare wheel and greasy jack. He had realised what they were after hearing a radio news bulletin about their disappearance. An hour later the driver delivered the Oscar-winning characters to the Manhattan hotel where their creator, Bristol-based Nick Park, had spent a fitful night. "It is like getting my two lost children back," said Mr Park, who on Saturday afternoon had sprinted down a rain-soaked street in pursuit of the taxi when he realised that Wallace and Gromit had

been left in the boot. The nine-inch tall figures, constructed around ball and socket joints, included Wallace's celebrated motorbike and sidecar. Mr Park, 37, has won three Oscars for his short animated films and is regarded as a world master of his art. He had taken the puppets, which cost £6,000 to make but had considerable emotional value, to the US on Saturday for a promotional tour. They were left behind in the taxi during a rainstorm when a mob of New Yorkers tried to seize the cab as Mr Park alighted at his hotel. The Indian taxi driver who returned the pair yesterday declined to give his name and would not accept a \$100 note he was offered by Mr Park's factotum and publicity adviser Arthur Sheriff. "Tell you the truth," said the streetwise Mr Sheriff, "I was prepared to pay \$500 to get them back." When the figures went miss-

ing Mr Park had been close to tears, but Mr Sheriff had taken more practical action. It was not quite Lord Lucan, but he alerted every police precinct in Manhattan, telephoned news agencies, and had Mr Park draw Interpol-style Identikit pictures of the missing models. "I know it sounds like a joke, but they were a good likeness," said Mr Park. "I really didn't think I would see them again, and I would not have done if it had not been for this kindhearted taxi driver who just wanted to do the right thing." Mr Park's engagingly honest mien forced one to regret earlier suspicions that the entire thing was a publicity stunt. The puppets were reported to be in moderate condition, although slightly dented. Wallace's nose needed marginal adjustment and Gromit's ears could use some attention.

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Man who shot car thief not guilty of manslaughter

BY ADAM FRESKO

A MEMBER of a gun club was cleared of manslaughter yesterday despite admitting that he shot dead a man he found breaking into his car.

Martin Wise, 35, a gamekeeper, shot Matthew Hodge, 20, with a replica .25 automatic baby Browning pistol outside his home in Hildenborough, Kent when he saw him trying to steal his Ford Escort.

Mr Wise, a father of four, denied manslaughter at Maidstone Crown Court and said that the handgun had gone off accidentally in August last year. He said he pulled the pistol from his pocket to warn off Mr Hodge, who was armed with a monkey wrench. But as he cocked it, the gun went off.

At the time of his arrest police found 23 weapons at his home and at his mother's home. He said he did not know that the gun was loaded and did not deliberately shoot Mr Hodge as the Crown



Mr Wise leaving court in Maidstone yesterday

alleged. The jury was told that when Mr Wise reported the attempted car theft, he did not tell police about the shooting. Mr Wise also asked a neighbour to take care of his collection of guns, including a .22 Ruger, a Smith and Wesson revolver and a rare Second World War Colt .45, before officers arrived.

At the time of the shooting he had been on his way to his parents' house, where he was required by the terms of his firearms certificate to keep his weapons. He had spent the day shooting at a range in Stone Lodge, near Dartford.

Mr Wise, a former Royal Engineer, has held a shotgun certificate since the age of 17 and a firearms certificate since the age of 21. He had been cleared of murder at an earlier trial. Detective Superintendent David Clapperton said that Mr Wise's gun licence would be reviewed, particularly the number of weapons he had been allowed to own. He said: "Matthew was just 21 years of age and his life was taken away from him very tragically and very suddenly. A lot of negative things have been said about him during the trial but he would have grown out of those things. He was never given the opportunity." Mr Wise said last night: "I am very pleased and now I have to think about what to do."

Budgie firm's shares go into tailspin

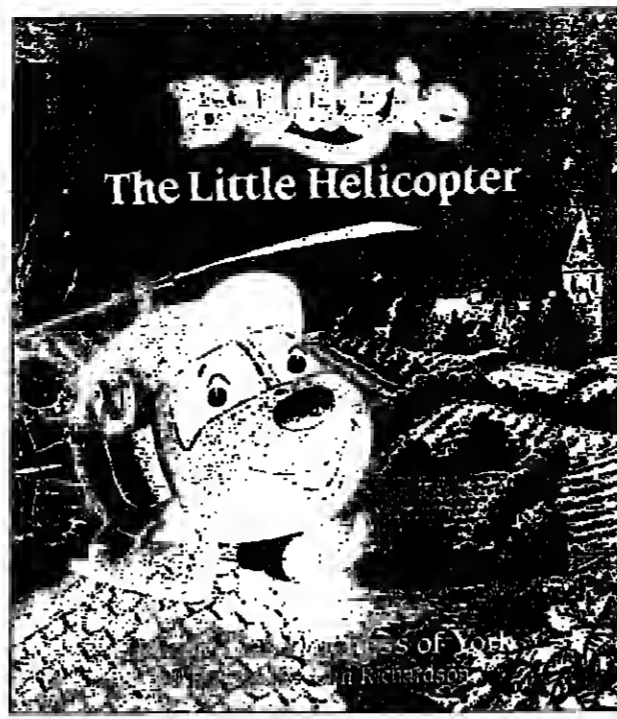
By PAUL DURMAN

BUDGIE the Little Helicopter, the cartoon character created by the Duchess of York, hit fresh turbulence yesterday when marketing problems in the United States saw £2 million wiped off the value of the company that sits at its controls.

Hopes for a revival in the Duchess's notoriously over-stretched finances have often been pinned on Budgie, which contributes most of the profits of the stockmarket firm Sleepy Kids. Television rights have been sold to more than 70 countries, and last year the firm made profits of nearly £1 million.

However, the firm's shares fell 6½p to 20p yesterday, their lowest this year. The company is now valued at £6 million, down from £15 million.

Sleepy Kids blamed the latest problems on the failure of its American marketing agent, Launey Hachmann



Budgie is controlled by Sleepy Kids, whose shares fell by 6½p yesterday to their lowest this year

Harris, which was forced to seek protection from its creditors in April. In a statement to the Stock Exchange, made necessary by its collapsing share price, Sleepy Kids said that it had been unable to capitalise on the "initial success" of the Budgie cartoons shown on the Fox Children's Network. The company said it was too early to quantify the damage to profits.

It intends to relaunch Budgie throughout the United

States once it has appointed a new agent. First, though, it must straighten out some legal difficulties.

In the 12-point statement, the company attempted to rebut some recent criticisms. For example, it said that Fox had not "dropped" the Budgie series, only rescheduled it. Budgie had been very successful on Fox, the company said, and it was discussing making a fourth series for the ITV network.

NEWS IN BRIEF

JP and ex-wife jailed for lying about crash

A magistrate and his former wife were jailed for lying over a drink-drive accident. John and Anne Bosomworth tried to convince the police and a magistrates' court that she had been at the wheel of their Range Rover when it crashed while returning home to Beamsley, North Yorkshire, after a night out in September 1994. At Leeds Crown Court yesterday, the former Mrs Bosomworth was jailed for nine months, and her former husband for 15 months, after they admitted perverting the course of justice and perjury.

Foetuses 'feel pain at six weeks'

A foetus may be able to feel pain six weeks after conception, says a report by the charity Christian Action Education and Research. A commission of inquiry concluded that almost every expert accepts foetuses can feel pain by 24 weeks, with growing evidence it may occur much earlier. The conclusion has implications for abortion and operations.

Aberfan remembers its dead

The people of Aberfan gathered at a hillside cemetery yesterday, the thirtieth anniversary of the coal tip disaster that killed 116 children and 28 adults. Relatives laid flowers on the rows of graves. The Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, William Smith, laid a wreath at a memorial service at 9.15am, the time a coal tip slid down the hillside in 1966.

Broadcasters snub Belfast

Up to 200 of Europe's leading broadcasters have abandoned plans to hold a major conference in Belfast next summer because of fears that they will be vulnerable to terrorist violence. The BBC, which is hosting the event, has switched the venue to Edinburgh. The IRA bomb attack on army barracks at Lisburn triggered the change of heart.

Guardsman wins action

A Grenadier Guardsman, Stephen Jordan, 25, of Bilston, West Midlands, who claimed he suffered epileptic fits after the Army imprisoned him for eight months, is understood to have accepted damages from the Ministry of Defence. He claimed he was not properly treated for his epilepsy and was once assaulted by a military policeman.

Stagg lawyer accuses media

William Clegg, the lawyer who defended Colin Stagg, acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell, has written to *The Times* accusing the media of pursuing a campaign against his client. Yesterday Mr Stagg claimed he had new information about the murder of Miss Nickell in 1992 and demanded payment for disclosing it. Letters, page 19

Bride sues GP after having stroke

A bride who was put on the Pill just before her wedding day suffered a catastrophic stroke that has left her totally paralysed, the High Court was told yesterday. Leena Vadera, of Hatch End, Pinner, was a month away from marriage in November 1986 when she consulted her GP. She is suing for damages. The hearing continues.

Forsyth criticises gun group

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, criticised "insensitive" plans by a gun lobby group to field a general election candidate against him in the constituency of Stirling, which includes Dunblane. He is defending a majority of 703. The Shooters' Rights Association insisted it was the only way to highlight the arguments against strict gun laws.

Labour puts in a call for support

The Labour leadership tried to inject renewed impetus into its manifesto ballot by canvassing 100,000 members by telephone. A week-long campaign was launched to encourage members to endorse or oppose the contents of the mini-manifesto, *New Labour, New Life for Britain*, which will be the basis of the party's general election campaign.

Tory club ban leaves bad odour

A Conservative club has banned one of its members for six months after complaints that his feet smell. The committee at March, Cambridgeshire, voted to suspend Tony Fisher, 58, for repeatedly refusing to keep his shoes and socks on. Mr Fisher says he went barefoot to relieve his gout. A club spokesman said: "The odour pervaded throughout the bar."



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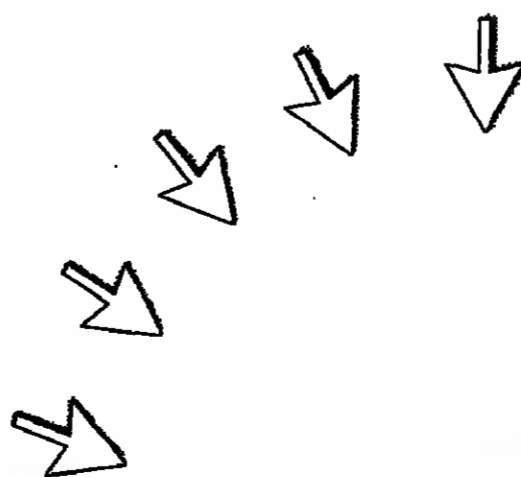


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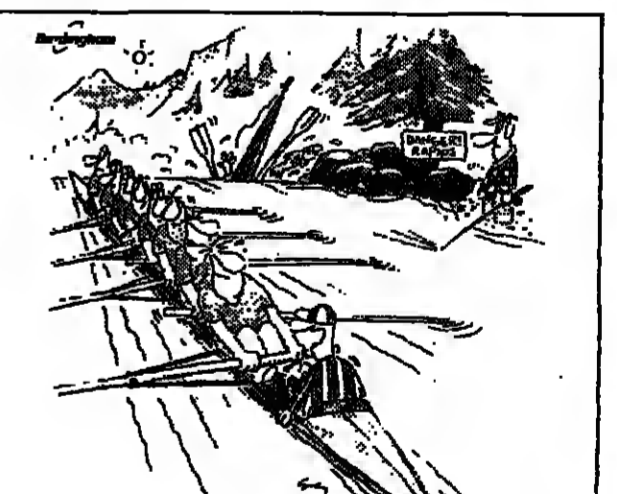
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Plea to catch youths who dropped concrete on car Family of M3 victim beg parents to question sons

BY LIN JENKINS AND BILL FROST

THE parents of a man left critically ill when youths dropped a concrete block through his car windscreen from a motorway bridge appealed to other parents yesterday not to harbour those responsible.

After police said that the youths they were seeking could be as young as 13, Simon Willmott's mother asked parents to tell the police if they suspected their children were involved. Sandy Willmott said: "We want to speak to parents. You know the members of your household better than anyone. Since Simon was injured, whoever did this must be frightened and showing some reaction."

"Parents, if you sense something is wrong, please probe. If you think anyone in your household was involved in this incident, we are appealing to you to do the right thing for all parents and ring the police. Whoever did this must be made aware that, in one moment of foolishness, they have affected not just Simon, but so many others." She

begged parents to think back to last Thursday and to ask where their children were at Spm, when the incident happened.

Mr Willmott remained unconscious with severe chest injuries in Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, Surrey, last night. Mrs Willmott, 50, and her husband, Alan, looked tired and drawn from their four-day vigil at his bedside. Mrs Willmott said that she had been pleased and surprised by the public's "fantastic" response in pleas for information: "We are absolutely overwhelmed by it all."

Police said they believed that three youths hurled the 1ft by 1ft block of concrete from the northern bridge at Junction 5 on the M3 near Hook, in Hampshire. Mr Willmott's Ford Escort was travelling at 70mph north from Bournemouth, where he works as an account executive with the cable company Nynex, to the home he shares with his parents in Bagshot, Surrey.

He managed to stop the car safely about 300 metres from



Simon Willmott is still unconscious in hospital

the bridge, but was unconscious by the time the first person got to him. His body had been crushed by the concrete block.

Half a dozen motorists have since told police about similar instances over the past weeks at the same spot. Detective Chief Inspector John James said it raised the possibility that the same group of youths had been responsible. He described the three

wanted teenagers as being between 5ft 4in and 5ft 10in tall, with one markedly taller than the others. They were believed to be aged between 13 and 19, dressed in dark clothes, with short, possibly cropped hair, and were of a slim or medium build. They had been spotted several times between 6.45pm and 8pm on the night in question.

Mr James said that he also wanted to trace other witnesses, including two youths aged about 14, with fair hair, seen in Station Road, Hook, and another youth aged between 15 and 20, seen alone on the bridge. Police were making inquiries yesterday at those local schools not on half-term and were talking to residents of Odham and Hook.

Some in Odham, a wealthy town to the south of the M3, refused to believe that anyone from the area could have been responsible. As one woman put it: "Teenagers from some housing estates down the way in Basingstoke must have done this. In this part of the world, children are properly brought up, properly educated and properly disciplined."



Sandy and Alan Willmott yesterday; they asked suspicious parents to ring police

Good turn may rule out Varsity rugby blue

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CAMBRIDGE rugby blue could miss this year's Varsity match after his jaw was broken by a gang of youths when he and a friend intervened to protect a cyclist deliberately knocked off his bike.

Nick Holgate, a 15-stone prop forward, who has had a plate inserted in his jaw after a kick to the side of his head, said: "I've got a broken jaw, a black eye and some cuts. I wouldn't have minded if it had happened on the rugby pitch."

The injury to the third-year management studies student from Robinson College means that he cannot play rugby for six weeks - giving him only two weeks to get back in the team before the match in December. Mr Holgate, 21, said: "Competition for a place is very tough. I don't know if I'll be selected again. I've just got to try to keep fit."

Tony Rogers, Cambridge University coach, said the possibility of losing Mr Holgate was a disappointment but he had not completely ruled him out of contention. Three youths have been arrested and released on police bail.

British sarnie is a must for le beau monde

FROM ROBIN YOUNG IN PARIS

HAVING taken over the leading fashion houses of Paris, the British are now introducing the French to something else they do better: the designer sandwich.

At this year's biggest food show in Europe, British sandwiches are the product most in vogue and discussed. "The chic thing in Paris at present is to be seen eating a sandwich anglaise," Patrick Davis, head of Food from Britain, the British food promotion organisation, said at the SIAL show in Paris yesterday. With 130 trade exhibitors, the United Kingdom is third largest contributor to the exhibition and the British Sandwich Association has a leading role among the British stands.

"Some 50 Mookprix supermarkets in Paris now receive sandwiches direct from Britain every day," Dominique Mine, director of Food from Britain in France, said. "Buckingham Foods make the sandwiches in Milton Keynes one day and have them on sale in Paris next morning still with a two or three-day shelf life in which they can be sold."

British sandwiches are also now sold in other French supermarket chains and in Delhaize stores in Belgium. Buckingham exports more than a dozen varieties, all made in English bread with imaginative fillings - unlike the simple ham or cheese baguettes to which the French are accustomed.

Other companies in France assemble British sandwiches from ingredients supplied from Britain. Fresh Food Village sells its sandwiches in France's Prisons stores. A

company in Brittain packs English sandwiches in gas-flushed packets which give the product a shelf life of up to 14 days.

Peter Bartlett, managing director of Breadwinners, whose sandwiches sell in Tesco, Safeway and Harrods, said: "The principal problem at the moment is that the French cannot get their head around the idea of chilled, fresh food delivered just in time for immediate consumption. They do not understand the logistics."

Mr Bartlett was, though, on the look-out for competent retailers who might take an interest in a cosmopolitan range of sandwiches, from roasted vegetables in focaccia to chicken and mixed leaves in a French baguette. Other recipes include Edam cheese and apple and mozzarella and sun-dried tomato paste, not forgetting BLT.

Most exotic of all is a Valentine Day sandwich with chocolate bread and a filling of mascarpone, peach and passion fruit. There is even a surprise chocolate in the pack, as what the French would call a *bonne bouche*. Two British bagel companies are also at the show, hoping to follow in the wake of the sandwiches' success - Riddles Bagel Company and Mr Bagel. "We are already exporting to Spain, Gibraltar and Greece," said Dave Nickisson, oo the Mr Bagel stand. "The bagels already oo the market are too hard and too chewy. Ours are soft and pliable, and we introducing at this show a pizza bagel as a new product to add to our cinnamon and raisin and poppy-seed versions."

An earl's whim that changed our diet

WHEN, in 1762, John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, slapped a slice of beef between two pieces of toast because he was too busy concentrating on the gaming tables to eat properly, he had no idea that his inventiveness would one day lead to a business worth £2 billion a year (Russell Jenkins writes).

The industry has grown so large that it requires the British Sandwich Association to look after its interests. Britons spend £5.2 million a day on ready-made sandwiches, consuming 1.3



The first sandwich-man

billion a year from 8,000 outlets. A survey published last July disclosed that the Scots are particularly enthusiastic sandwich-eaters. The late Elvis Presley's gargantuan sandwich concoctions are legendary.

However, the biggest sandwich ever made was created in Taipei. It was 2,000 ft long, with 1,520 lbs of bread and 3,080 lbs of filling.

Sandwiches call for caution and hygienic handling. They are a magnet for bacteria. In 1994 there were 82,000 incidents of food poisoning reported to the Public Health Laboratory in Colindale, north London.

About one-third of the population eat a sandwich they have bought ready-made every day. Around 94 per cent admit to eating one at least once a month.

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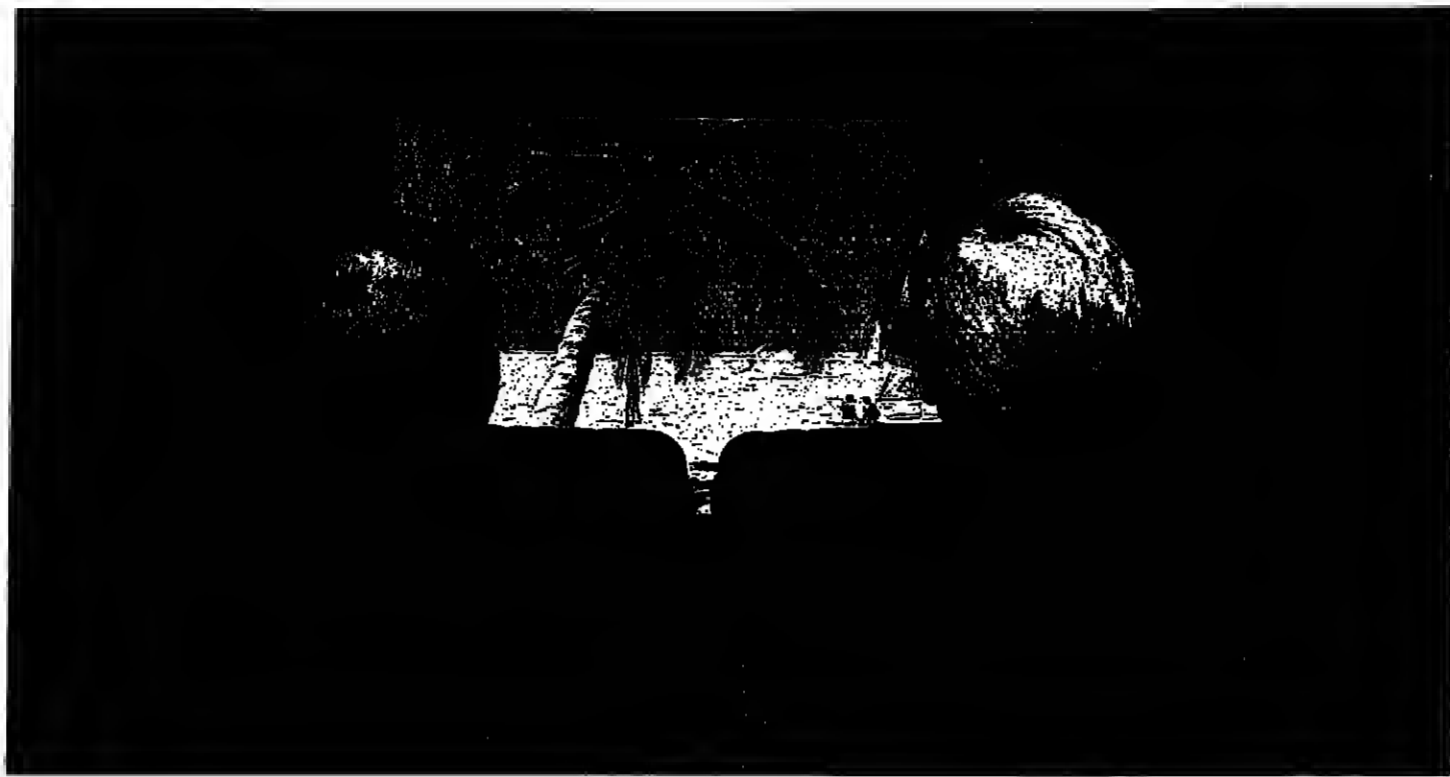
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Grassroots movement grows as the Government salutes courage of dead teacher's wife

Thousands back widow's call for good citizenship



Mrs Lawrence yesterday: she wants to "banish violence"

BY JOANNA BALE

THOUSANDS of people have backed Frances Lawrence's call for a national debate about ways of tackling violence and promoting good citizenship.

They expressed their support in telephone calls, faxes and letters to *The Times* and to Mrs Lawrence's home in Ealing, west London, over the past three days. Many were from concerned parents and teachers, whom Mrs Lawrence wants to see leading a nationwide grassroots movement "dedicated to healing our fractured society and banishing violence".

Lynne Drewett told how she set up a neighbourhood scheme in February to combat youth crime in

Swanscombe and Greenhithe near Dartford, Kent, after her 16-year-old son was arrested with other teenagers for a petty offence. She said: "We hope Mrs Lawrence will be an inspiration to others to do something in their area."

"As a parent I wanted to help my son and teenagers like him in a practical way. We spoke to youths on the streets and the police to find out why young people were turning to crime. We then organised a summer scheme for younger children to keep them occupied during the school holidays and a drop-in centre for older ones."

"Unfortunately, the drop-in centre was wrecked by the very teenagers it was meant for. We are finding it a struggle to get support

to continue so we welcome Mrs Lawrence's campaign. We hope that people will be encouraged to give practical and financial support to schemes like ours."

Jeanne Turner, a former teacher at an inner city school in Sheffield said that the problem of falling standards of discipline and morals in schools was partly due to the trend of older teachers being made redundant to make way for younger, cheaper staff. She suggested that one way of enhancing teachers' status — which Mrs Lawrence has called for — would be to keep older, more experienced staff.

She said: "There are few teachers in their fifties left with the expertise to encourage morality and family values in the classroom. People

from my generation want to do something to help but no one wants to employ us in any position of authority because we are considered too old. I hope Mrs Lawrence's campaign can change that so that people of all ages can work together to solve these problems."

Shirley Day of Bushey, Hertfordshire, said: "In recent years I have watched my brains about what I can do to help solve the problems that Mrs Lawrence talks about. Sadly, with all her grief, she has got the opportunity now to do this."

"Every age group has its problems — all the decent things have fallen by the wayside. We all have something to learn from this and I would like to congratulate *The Times* for conveying it in such a

moving way." Margaret Morrissey of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said her members backed Mrs Lawrence's call for a ban on combat knives.

She said: "It would make sense whilst dealing with the gun laws to include knife laws. One wonders why this has not already been done. It would be naive to think that this would erase knives and guns from our streets but it must help."

The group also called for more government support for some of Mrs Lawrence's other aspirations, such as raising the status of police and teachers. Mrs Morrissey added: "Successive Secretaries of State and Ministers have and still do

criticise our teachers. It may not be their intention to lower the teachers' standing in the eyes of the public, but that is what happens. Sadly it will take more years to rebuild the status of our professional people than it took the Government to smash it."

Philip Shepherd of Imagine Nations United, a British-based international group which campaigns against violence, said: "Mrs Lawrence's initiative is a catalyst for the shift in attitudes which is so desperately needed."

He is organising a linking of hands from Edinburgh to London in May to express unity and sympathy for victims of violence, and to promote anti-violence initiatives among young people.

Shepherd says crusade gives edge to plan to teach morality

BY DAVID CHARTER AND JILL SHERMAN

CITIZENSHIP lessons will be tried out in schools across the country as part of the Government's drive to promote values in the classroom. Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, said yesterday.

Mrs Shepherd said she was inspired by the example of Frances Lawrence and wanted an agreed moral code adopted by schools.

Mrs Shepherd said she would consider accelerating the work of the National Forum for Values in Education on preparing a code after speaking to the widow of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death as he intervened to protect a pupil attacked outside his school.

The forum was set up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to consult widely on ten new "commandments" for the classroom and plans for citizenship lessons when the national curriculum is revised in 2000.

Mrs Shepherd said: "I spoke to Mrs Lawrence on Saturday and I am well aware that she wants a debate and not a manifesto at this stage. We both know more than education is involved. SCAA will implement a two-year pilot of guidance materials in preparation for the next review of the curriculum. It seems to me a very great deal of the work of the authority answers a lot of the points raised by Mrs Lawrence and her debate will help give some urgency to its work. We will see whether we need to accelerate the work and there will be nothing placed in the way of the pilot."

Mrs Shepherd and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, appeared to try to outbid each other in their response to Mrs Lawrence's manifesto to curb violence in society. Mr Blunkett said that Labour would introduce classes in good citizenship as part of the national curriculum for primary and secondary schools.

He admitted that there were constraints in timetabling for the national curriculum, but that room should be found for civic lessons. Mr Blunkett said

the intention was "to ensure that the teaching of citizenship is central to the development of young people from the earliest possible moment". Aides said this would involve the teaching of old-fashioned "civics" — how society and government works — mixed with rights and responsibilities.

Children would be taught the basics of right and wrong and lessons could involve visits from local policemen, or other members of the local community, such as vicars. Mr Blunkett pointed out that the lessons would also fit in with Labour's plans for a

to the self, to relationships, to society and to the environment. A statement about what these values mean and how pupils can demonstrate them would form the basis of citizenship lessons, delivered through guided debate.

The authority will also propose community service for all youngsters, such as helping the elderly. Trainee teachers will be given more instruction in religious and secular moral traditions.

Mrs Shepherd said she was "very impressed" with Mrs Lawrence. "What a brave person. I imagine this is all bringing it back hideously and I hope it is helping her cope at this time. She is amazing."



Shepherd: inspired by Frances Lawrence

national citizens' service for young people who had left school. They would help with keeping the environment clean and other community duties, such as helping the disabled and elderly.

Labour also plans to address Mrs Lawrence's specific call for improvements in teaching. Mr Blunkett has set out a series of proposals which includes the sacking of bad teachers, improving the quality of teacher-training and introducing a probationary year for new teachers.

The SCAA will begin consultation next month on a moral code centred around four key values: those related

to the self, to relationships, to society and to the environment. A statement about what these values mean and how pupils can demonstrate them would form the basis of citizenship lessons, delivered through guided debate.

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Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said all teachers would fully support Mrs Lawrence's message, but he called for schools to take their own stand against indiscipline by expelling children who broke codes of behaviour.

He said: "I believe the time for firm action is long overdue. Schools must show by example that serious disruption and violence simply will not be tolerated." It was no accident, Mr de Gruchy said, that Philip Lawrence had found it necessary to expel 60 pupils during his brief time at St George's School, Maida Vale, west London. Others should follow his example.

Parents, as well as schools, needed to play their part and a Good Parenting Agency should be established. "A Good Parenting Agency could be charged with going out into the community to contact families and try to show them by example how their own interests would be better served by more positive and active parenting," he said.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that as far as head teachers were concerned Mrs Lawrence was "pushing at an open door".

Libby Purves, page 18
Michael Howard, page 18



Learning for life: children will be taught moral values and good citizenship under plans to improve standards from both major parties

Scots address problems A slice of pizza from first day at school for polite pupils

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CHILDREN in Scotland learn the rights and responsibilities of good citizens, together with the importance of values such as respect and honesty, from the day they start school.

Guidelines published three years ago by the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum are aimed at developing positive attitudes in young people aged 5 to 14 and helping them to grow towards "effective citizenship". Teachers are asked to ensure that themes such as respect and caring for self and others, social responsibility, a commitment to learning and a sense of belonging underpin all lessons, from sport to mathematics.

Many primaries and all secondary schools also run weekly citizenship classes, known as personal and social development, in which children spend an hour learning what it means to be a right-thinking member of society.

Jean Campbell, head teacher at Glendale Primary

School in Glasgow, said: "The vast majority are good citizens but there are now lots of issues which make life more complex for young people. We have to give them strict standards of how we expect them to behave and encourage them to behave."

At Glendale, which takes children from one of Glasgow's most deprived areas, pupils tackle abstract moral issues, such as trust, honesty, respect and responsibility for their actions, through a mixture of games, role-playing and discussion.

Mrs Campbell has adopted a method known as "circle time", in which children sit in a circle to talk about a topic. They may learn about respect through discussing bullying and acting out how it feels from both sides. They then talk about feelings and are encouraged to discuss why such behaviour is not acceptable. Developing non-violent responses to problem-solving is an important part.

At Bellahouston Primary,

which has a racially mixed intake from deprived areas of greater Govan, good citizenship starts with children being given a sense of belonging to the school community. Through themed lessons spanning all curriculum subjects, they are taught that with "belonging" come responsibilities for themselves, others within the school and for the buildings.

Rewarding children for good behaviour rather than simply punishing bad behaviour is an important part of the school's ethos.

George MacBride, who runs the development classes at Govan High School, believes citizenship lessons are about empowering young people by raising their expectations, helping them to make informed choices and achieve their potential. To do this, Govan High works towards giving pupils the emotional, social and practical skills they need for adult life, as well as instilling a sense of self-respect.

PLAGUED by lack of discipline, drug abuse and violence, American schools regularly promote citizenship programmes to encourage good behaviour.

New Hampshire has led the field since the state adopted a policy advocating character and citizenship education eight years ago and made it mandatory for teachers to be trained in the topic. At first attracting controversy — parents felt it was an agenda imposed either by the religious Right or the liberal Left — the system has since become popular throughout America, across party lines.

The language of the policy in New Hampshire and many other states is intentionally broad, leaving districts to decide how they should teach values in their own schools. Some employ a system of incentives while others recognise responsible conduct by placing students on a non-academic roll of honour. In schools in Virginia, for example, children are graded in as

many as eight areas of citizenship, including responsibility, obeying rules and being truthful and courteous.

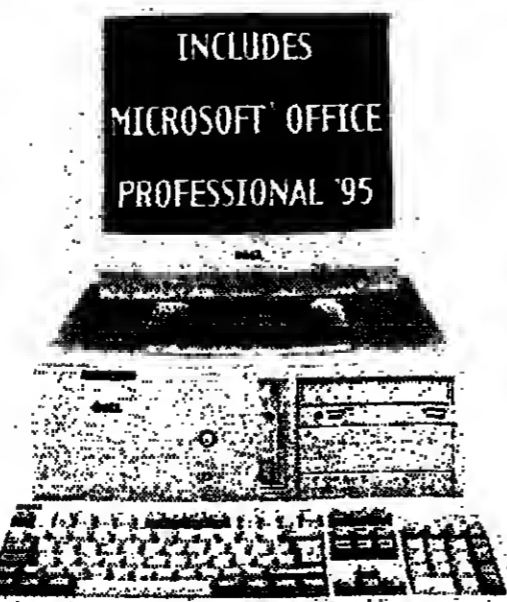
Elsewhere the reward is more tangible. Peacock Middle School in Chicago started a school lottery last year, providing tickets to all children who behaved with exceptional courtesy. The result was a 53 per cent drop in suspensions and a dramatic decline in the number of detentions meted out to students.

Each Friday, Reinhardt Nickisch draws three tickets representing different age grades, and reads the winners over the school intercom. Prizes include pizzas, ice-creams and toys donated by local shops. This year a grand draw will include a stereo system and a bicycle.

"The lottery may sound like a bribe," Janet Lynch, the local guidance counsellor, said, "but it promotes good behaviour because the kids realise that bad behaviour is not getting them the attention that good behaviour does."

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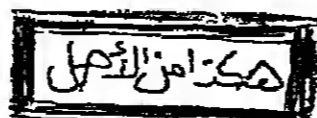
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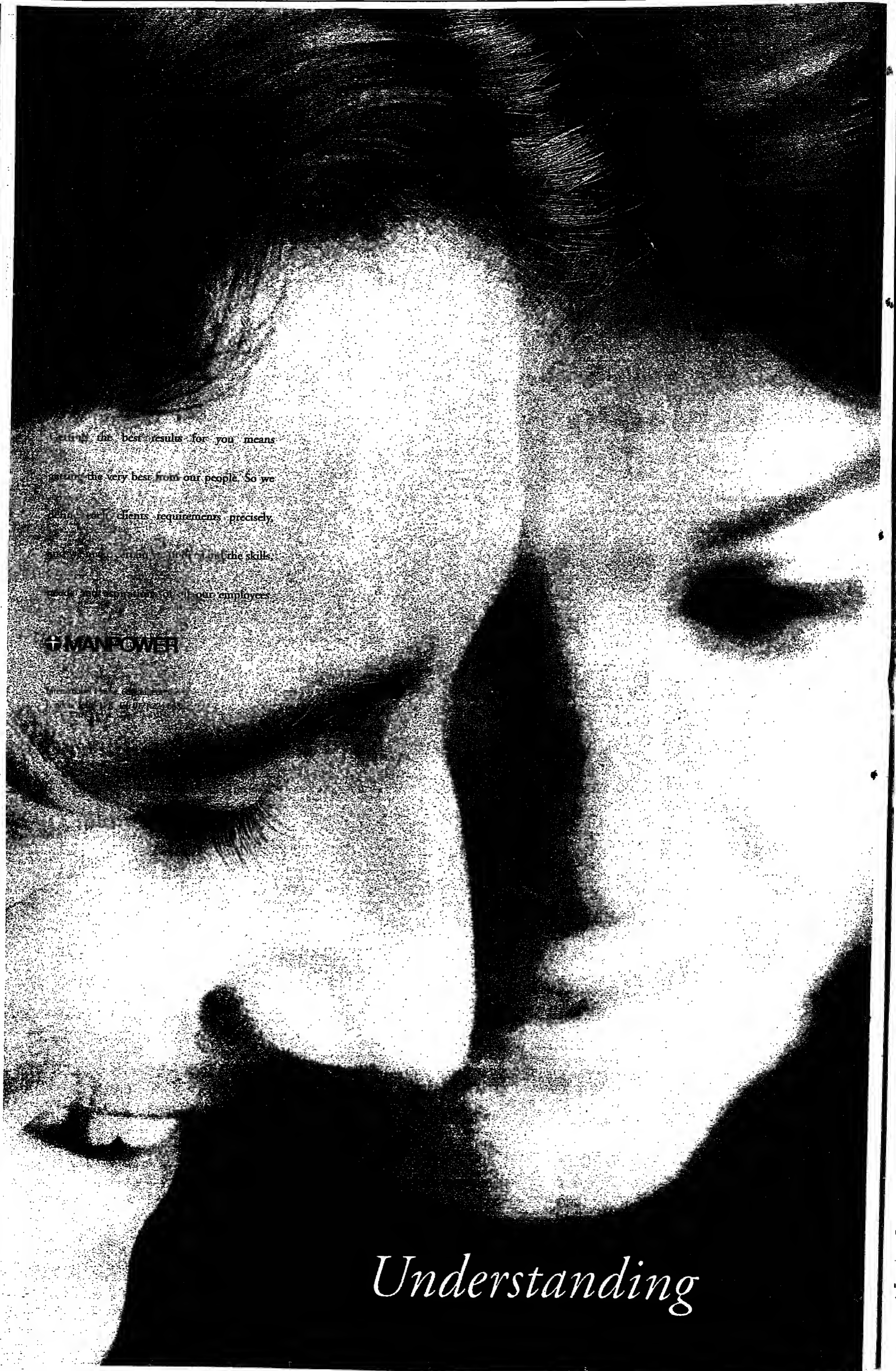


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Nature group seeks protection for harmless giant facing extinction in British waters

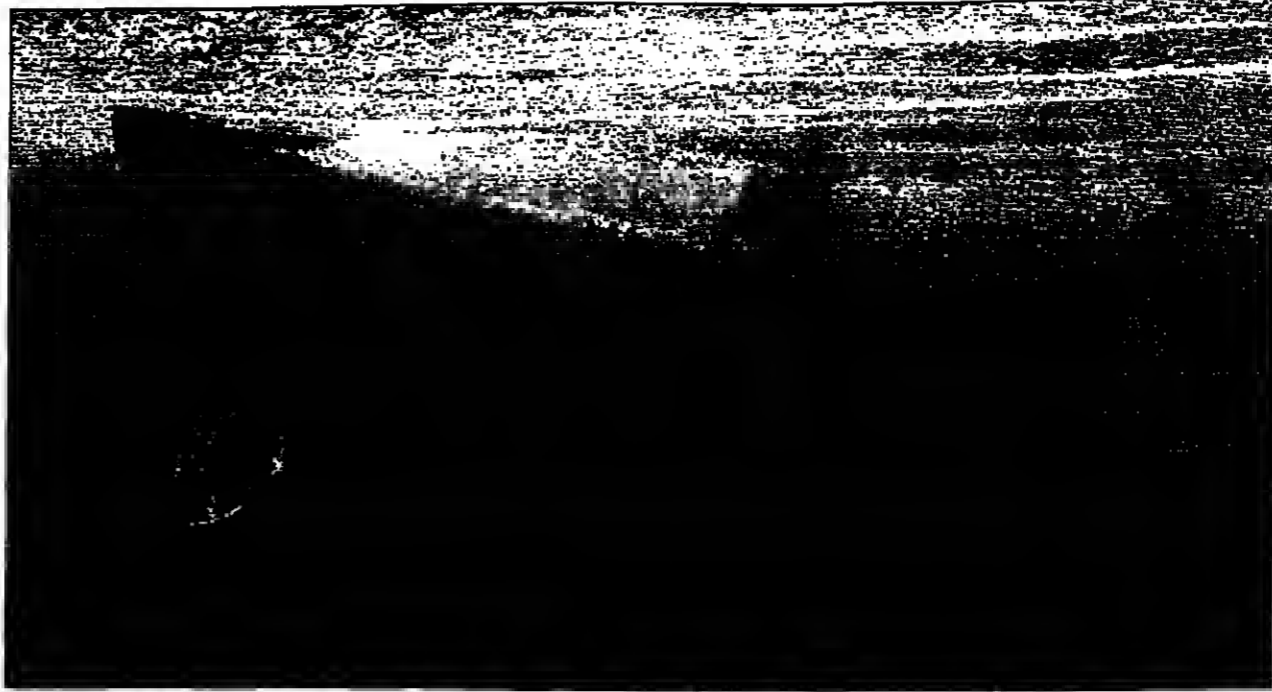
Oriental appetite for fins threatens the basking shark

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOARING demand for shark fins used in oriental cooking has led to a steep rise in the global price and fears that the basking shark could become extinct in British waters.

Government wildlife advisers are trying to have Cetorhinus maximus listed as a protected species amid fears that fishermen desperate to make a living as traditional fish stocks fall will target the shark to supply the lucrative Far Eastern trade.

The delicacy has almost doubled to more than £28 a kilogram in just four years as demand has soared and sharks in some Far Eastern waters have been fished to the brink of extinction.



A basking shark feeding on plankton: harmless to man, there is evidence that it is being harassed off our shores

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with backing from groups including the Marine Conservation Society, is urging the Government to list the shark under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The main threat facing basking sharks in this country is from Norwegian fishermen. They have a European Commission-approved quota to harpoon 300 basking sharks a year in British waters.

There is also evidence that basking sharks - at 45ft the second largest fish after the whale shark, but harmless to man - are being harassed and killed for fun in British waters.

was, chased by power boats and jet skiers. There were several cases of basking sharks being found dead off the Welsh and southwest English coasts with deep cuts on their heads, thought to have been caused by boat hooks used to kill the animals and tow them alongside before being dumped.

A meeting in Birmingham later this week, organised by the Sea Life Centres, will set up a European Elasmobranch (the class of fish including sharks) Society to further the cause of sharks generally and the basking shark in particular.

The Department of the Environment said: "We would hope to bring in an amendment to the Act in the spring. There is a groundswell of opinion in favour of listing the basking shark."

A few weeks ago the basking shark was listed as vulnerable by the World Conservation Union.

'SAS man' escapes charges over book

A bestselling author who admitted his book about an SAS death squad in Ulster was fiction will not be prosecuted for wasting police time.

Group 4 deal

Group 4 has won a £49 million contract to ferry inmates to court from 16 prisons in the North of England.

Walker dead

A walker who disappeared in the Austrian Alps in June has been found dead by a hunter.

Blind give their eye teeth for new sight

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SURGEON plans to give a new twist to the old adage, a tooth for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

Christopher Liu, a consultant ophthalmic surgeon at the Sussex Eye Hospital in Brighton, said the technique involved removing a tooth from the patient, drilling a hole through it and using it to support a plastic lens.

The tooth is removed from the patient together with a piece of bone. It is shaped to provide a rectangular base, and drilled. The modified tooth, holding the plastic window, is inserted for at least two months into an incision made in the cheek just below the eye.

"This is to allow it to recover from the shock and make sure that all is well," Mr Liu said. The modified tooth is then placed in the eye after room has been made by removing the existing lens and some internal structure.

Bridlepath ban

Conservationists have won a five-year fight to ban four-wheel drive vehicles from a bridleway in Glatton, Cambridgeshire.

School eviction

A former nursing sister at Harrow School has failed to halt her eviction from the flat she shares with her husband at the school.

Goalposts death

Emma Barter, 2, died in hospital after a set of goalposts fell on her as she played with friends on a playing field in Ipswich, Suffolk.

Parent power

Parents of pupils at Cheltenham College have called a meeting with members of the school's governing body to demand the reinstatement of the headmaster.

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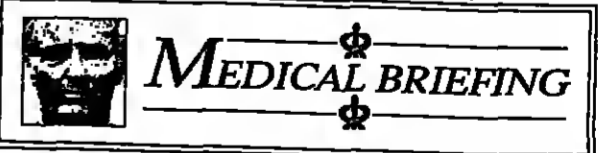
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Disability - on the agenda



The Duke of Edinburgh after his recent surgery

The outdoor life leaves its mark



THE skin of the Duke of Edinburgh's nose, before his recent surgery, would have made an excellent topic for discussion on a teaching ward round.

Changes in the skin can affect any part of an adult's body at any time, but are particularly common in fair-skinned people who have been exposed to the sun.

Most skin lesions removed are benign - as is assumed to be the case with the Duke's. Even in most of those cases in which lesions are cancerous, the malignancy is of a low order.

known as rodent ulcers, are common around the face. Sometimes they appear as a small scaly red ulcer that won't heal, at other times like a pearly seed buried in the skin.

A malignant melanoma - a cancerous mole - is highly lethal if neglected. Patients and doctors look for changes in size and colour of the mole, an irregular outline and a patchy uneven colour.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

Chancellor signals millennial ambitions as party rewards him with collective embrace

Kohl's people champion cause of common man

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday shrugged aside his Government's serious financial crisis and declared European monetary union and a more politically integrated continent to be within reach. "Ladies and gentlemen, we will do it!" he bellowed to the applause of almost one thousand Christian Democratic delegates at the party conference.

Outside the Congress Centre in Hanover several hundred farmers hurled rotten apples at Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister, and demanded a more active German policy on "mad cow disease".

"We expect you to speak up more strongly for our interests in Brussels," came the megaphoned demand from Wilhelm Niemeier, Lower Saxony farmers' leader.

Inside, the delegates were not so much concerned with debate as polishing a monument. There was not a rotten apple in sight. Herr Kohl, party leader for 23 years, was elected again with the kind of majority that would have made Enver Hoxha, the former Albanian dictator, proud.

On October 31, the Chancellor will overtake Konrad Adenauer and become the longest-serving German leader this century, and so the party conference has become, even more than usual, a kind of collective embrace.

Bonn: German women were targeted by Helmut Kohl yesterday as the Chancellor, his popularity on the wane, tried to convince them that his Christian Democratic Party was not a closed club of blue-suited sexist (Roger Boyes writes).

"We are not a macho party," he said before the CDP dutifully voted at its annual conference to reserve 30 per cent of its posts for women, enabling more to enter parliament. At present they make up 25 per cent of the 700,000-strong party membership, but only 15 per cent of its deputies.

The move — it failed to get through last year — aims to show Herr Kohl as a moderniser and to win back those scared away by welfare cuts. But his party still lags behind the Greens — with a 50 per cent quota — and the Social Democrats, who reserve 40 per cent of their offices for women and have pledged that 40 per cent of elected posts will be allotted to them by 1998.

"It is the magic of kinship," said a starry-eyed young delegate from the east as Herr Kohl waded through the crowds on way to lunch.

The adulation of the conference is not reflected in the Chancellor's popularity in the country at large. A weekend opinion poll showed that in terms of personal popularity the Chancellor is only three points ahead of Gerhard Schröder, his likely Social Democratic challenger, and that his coalition is more dependent than ever on the survival of his junior coalition partner, the Free Democrats.

The Christian Democrats are, together with their Bavarian cousins, the Christian Social Union, the strongest party with 41 per cent but the Free Democrats are only just hovering above the 5 per cent mark needed for parliamentar-

ry representation. If the party collapses there will be little to stop the progress of a Social Democrat-Green alternative Government. Indeed, the polls show that an election held next Sunday would topple the Kohl Government or at least bring it to the very edge.

Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, is being blamed for a budgetary mess which has left Bonn struggling to find extra revenue in order to keep the country within the deficit criterion for entry to European monetary union.

The Free Democrats are under criticism for allowing an unpopular "solidarity" tax to stay in place. Over the past week the Free Democrats have lost their image as a tax-cutting party.

The Chancellor thus devoted an unusually large chunk of his speech to swearing

loyalty to the junior party. He gave a broad hint that the Christian Democrats should do all they can to support the Free Democrats.

"Every partner has to ensure the success of the other in a coalition government," he said. That meant clearly identifying the enemy — a potential Social Democrat-Green coalition — and fortifying the centre ground.

"We must stay firmly in the centre, rejecting extremes from right and from left, and also rejecting radical solutions," he said.

Thatcherism was out, he emphasised. "We are the party of the social market." Combating unemployment was the primary goal. The Christian Democrats had to present themselves, like the British Conservatives, as the party of the common man. Wealthy tax dodgers had to be pursued and the party had to set the tone for the country, claiming the moral high ground and stamping out corruption.

There was no avoiding a future European currency. "Peace and freedom are the priorities for the next century — and I say this again even though it has been deliberately misconstrued abroad — but, I warn you, peace and freedom do not come free, even for Germans."

The price of European security was European monetary union and a more efficient, better integrated Europe that was capable, for example, of fighting organised crime and



Helmut Kohl addresses the Christian Democratic party convention yesterday

drug mafias. "Since my first European summit in Copenhagen in December 1982, I have heard again and again that this will all never happen," Herr Kohl said. However, during the last Dublin summit, he had sensed a

"psychological breakthrough" and a deeply integrated union was now "irrevocable". Plainly the party wanted a commitment from the Chancellor that he would stand for re-election in October 1998.

He did not do so, but hinted that he would still be there when Germany staged the Expo 2000 exhibition. The whole millennial context of the Christian Democratic conference suggested that the Chancellor would still be at its helm in four years' time.

'Aids cure' scientist may face charges

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A FRENCH medical researcher, whose "miracle drug" was allegedly used to treat the late François Mitterrand for cancer, has been placed under formal legal investigation on charges of illegally manufacturing medicine.

Mirko Beljanski, 73, a molecular biologist and former researcher at the prestigious Pasteur Institute, is the central figure in a bitter medical dispute in France, where he is regarded as a life-saving medical genius by some and a dangerous quack by others. In 1989 Professor Beljanski, who was born in Yugoslavia and is not a medical doctor, claimed to have discovered an anti-viral treatment for cancer and Aids which he called BP100. The treatment was never officially authorised, but hundreds of cancer and Aids sufferers obtained the drug through various channels now under investigation.

One of Mitterrand's doctors prescribed BP100 for his prostate cancer, according to numerous French press reports which have never been denied by the former President's entourage. In 1994 the professor was found guilty of illegally practising medicine and the French Health Ministry formally banned his products. But Professor Beljanski allegedly continued to sell BP100 "under the table, convinced of the effectiveness of his discovery", according to *Le Figaro*.

Earlier this month police raided his laboratory after the legal authorities renewed charges of "illegally practising pharmacy and medicine" and launched a fresh assault on Professor Beljanski's network.

The French Association for Aids Research has conducted a rigorous examination of BP100, the precise ingredients of which are secret, and concluded that the medicine has no specific anti-viral effect. But an estimated 1,000 people in France are currently undergoing treatment with BP100. The pills cost around Fr1,500 (£189) a month.

Professor Beljanski claims he is the victim of an economic conspiracy. "The big pharmaceutical laboratories wanted to hold on to their markets," he said recently.

Former anti-Yeltsin plotter in landslide poll victory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW



Rutskoi, elected as governor with 79 per cent of vote

GENERAL Aleksandr Rutskoi, one of President Yeltsin's most implacable enemies, staged a remarkable comeback yesterday when he scored a landslide victory in an election race for a powerful regional governorship.

General Rutskoi, who led the bloody uprising against the Kremlin leader in October 1993, won 79 per cent of the votes for the Kursk region, a rich agricultural area 300 miles south of Moscow. Vasilii Shuteyev, the Kremlin-backed in-

cumbent, was roundly defeated, scoring only 18 per cent. The victory automatically gives General Rutskoi a seat in the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, and could catapult the mustachioed former fighter pilot back into the frontline of the opposition ranks.

"It is a serious defeat for democracy," said Sergei Belyaev, the head of the pro-government Our Home Is Russia faction in the Duma, the lower house of parliament.

General Rutskoi, who grew up in Kursk, first came to prominence in 1991 when President Yeltsin chose

him as his running-mate in Russia's first presidential elections.

However, relations between the two men quickly deteriorated as the former Afghan war hero sided with the hardline opposition against the Kremlin leader. The conflict came to a bloody end in October 1993 when General Rutskoi led the uprising against the Kremlin, which responded by shelling the White House and arresting the leaders of the revolt.

General Rutskoi was jailed for several months and finally amnestied by parliament. He had operated in relative obscurity with-

in the Communist-led opposition until his victory yesterday. The win was particularly impressive since the local authorities had attempted to prevent him standing and he was only registered late last week, leaving him 36 hours to campaign.

The setback in Kursk was compounded by defeats for two other pro-Yeltsin governors, in the Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad and the central Russian region of Kirov.

Vyacheslav Nikonov, who helped engineer President Yeltsin's re-election victory this summer, and is now one of the main campaign organisers for the regional polls,

predicted that the Kursk result could change the face of opposition politics in Russia.

"Rutskoi did not have a political platform before today, now he has a governorship and a seat in parliament," said Mr Nikonov. "He could become a major force in the opposition, perhaps even its future leader."

Ever since the defeat of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader who came second in last summer's presidential race, the nationalist and left-wing opposition groups have been looking for a more charismatic figure to back.

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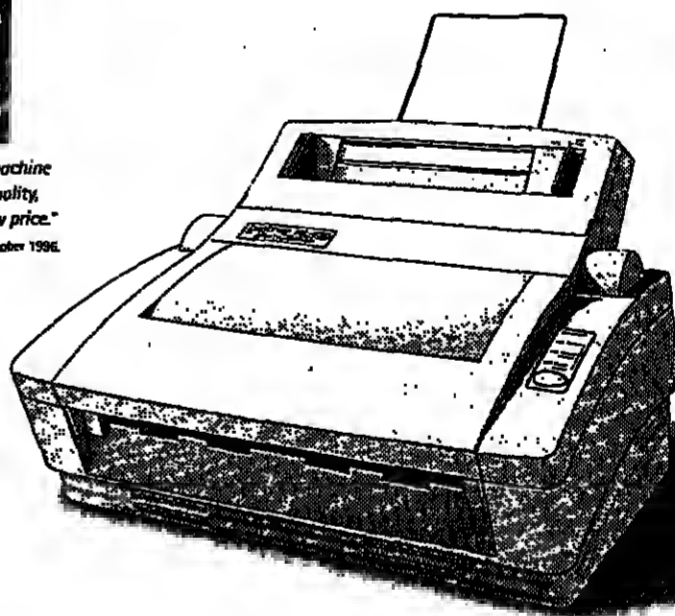
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Chirac will address the Palestinian legislature

Israelis frosty to Chirac

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

JACQUES CHIRAC, the French President, arrived in Israel yesterday to a hostile reception from many right-wing supporters of the Government who dismissed him as a blatantly pro-Arab politician who had in the past sanctioned the sale of a nuclear reactor to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The official reception was correct but cool, with members of the Cabinet ruling out any question of the European Union dispatching its own Middle East envoy, as M. Chirac had earlier advocated. "We reject it completely," David Levy, the Foreign Minister, said.

Among those boycotting sections of M Chirac's two-day stay was Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee and a member of the ruling Likud party. "The French President is hostile to Israel," he declared. "He is a prominent pro-Arab statesman, who called Saddam Hussein 'the Arab de Gaulle'."

M Chirac's last-minute decision to reverse his earlier refusal to visit the Knesset — although he will not to speak there — when tomorrow he will become the first foreign head of state to address the 88-seat Palestinian legislature in Ramallah, failed to mollify many Israelis.

Moshe Peled, the Deputy Education Minister, announced that he would walk out of the Knesset plenum the moment that M Chirac took his seat in protest against what he claimed was a slight both to the parliament and to the state of Israel.

Jailed star witness says First Lady to be indicted

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN HIS first interview from a prison cell, the Arkansas banker who helped to convict three former associates of President Clinton and his wife Hillary, claimed yesterday that the First Lady faced certain indictment after the American elections.

David Hale, the star prosecution witness in the Whitewater hearings and a former Arkansas political insider, said it was a "certainty" that Mrs Clinton would be charged by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, once the cloud of partisan politics had lifted after the polls in November. Mr Clinton could also face charges.

"I can tell you that Hillary is going to be indicted on 13 to 18 counts involving obstruction of justice, lying to federal investigators, and misleading federal regulators," Hale told *The Wall Street Journal*, the Clintons' journalistic nemesis. "I believe some of the charges will relate to obstruction at the White House."

Hale, who is serving a 28-month sentence, predicted that Mr Clinton subsequently would immediately pardon both his wife and Jim Guy Tucker, the Arkansas Governor convicted on Whitewater charges.

Susan McDougal, a former Clinton partner in the failed Arkansas land deal who is serving a two-year sentence,

would not be granted an amnesty, the former banker said. The only witness to have claimed first-hand knowledge of the President's involvement in any crime, Hale has alleged that Mr Clinton put pressure on him to make a \$300,000 (£188,000) loan to Mrs McDougal in 1983. The White House has consistently described the allegation as a "bunch of bull".

Hale is still viewed as a credible witness in many quarters. In more than two years as a co-operative witness he has spent hundreds of hours with Mr Starr and his colleagues and is thought to know much about their evidence.

His statements appear to confirm a web of deceit that clung to the Clintons in Arkansas and followed them through the early years in Washington. He described the First Couple as the Harry and Harriet Houdini of American politics, a pair of master escape artists.

Hale claimed that Mrs Clinton, as a lawyer in Arkansas, drafted a document that was used to deceive bank inspectors and divert a payment of \$300,000 to one of her partner's relatives.

Prosecutors are investigating the so-called Castle Grande deal in which Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of Whitewater, is said to have made loans to Seth Ward. Mr Ward's son-in-law, Webster Hubbell, was a Clinton law partner who is now languishing in prison for fraud.

Hale said Mrs Clinton, Mr Ward and Jim McDougal, the owner of Madison who has also been found guilty of fraud, all conspired to mislead federal regulators in the deal. He said Mr McDougal, whose sentencing has been delayed until after the elections and who is said to be co-operating with the Whitewater inquiry, has very significant information to offer about these transactions.



Hillary Clinton, accused by Hale of conspiring to deceive bank inspectors

Dole urges funding ban

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, the Republican candidate for the US presidency, has called for a fundamental overhaul of the American system of financing election campaigns — including a ban on donations from companies, unions, wealthy individuals and foreigners.

His move came in the wake of disclosures that the Democrats had taken \$700,000 (£440,000) in contributions from Indonesian and Korean companies. John Huang, the party fund-raiser responsible for the contributions, was removed from his duties on Friday while the foreign dona-

tions are investigated; some have been returned.

Democrats have replied that Mr Dole is an unlikely champion of electoral reform, having raised more than \$100 million in his political lifetime from the donors he now criticises. They also note that the Republican Party has returned a \$15,000 donation from a Canadian company.

The vulnerability of both parties to these charges emphasises why Mr Dole's move will have widespread appeal. Spending by both parties in this election, the most expensive in US history, has

prompted accusations that campaign finance rules, drawn up two decades ago after Watergate, are brazenly flouted.

The Washington Post has called the present system a "charade" and a "fig leaf", and claimed both candidates have made "a final mockery of the campaign laws".

Common Cause, a pressure group, has asked Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, to appoint an independent counsel to investigate spending by both the Dole and Clinton teams, and mount criminal prosecutions for any violations.

Hunt vote threatens Wild West lifestyle

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE old Wild West trapper of popular imagination, with coyote fur cap, toothless grin and bloody mitt, may find his way of life changed for good after the US election.

Animal rights protesters have succeeded in placing anti-field sports motions before the electorates of several states on November 5. Voters in Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Michigan, Oregon and Massachusetts will all have the chance to express their preferences on certain types of hunting at the same time as choosing between Bill Clinton and Robert Dole.

The motions represent a threat to a cherished way of life in the American West, where hundreds of thousands of people are preparing for the start of the season this coming weekend. Jim Posewitz, 61, a Montana wildlife authority, yesterday admitted that field sports fans in the US need to arm themselves, politically speaking, against the "antis". "These votes will be a good wake-up call for us," said Mr Posewitz.

"Hunting in America has no regard for social status or wealth," said Mr Posewitz. "Wildlife belongs to everyone, regardless of land ownership."

The hunting vote concentrates on rural pursuits which hunters know can be hard to defend in front of city dwellers trapping, poisoning and bear-baiting. The proposers of the votes argue that these practices are cruel. Farmers reply that traps are often the only way of protecting livestock from attacks by cougar, lynx and coyote. They add that wild animals such as the beaver, while photogenic, can cause widespread natural damage unless numbers are checked.

Mr Posewitz says that going out to hunt for supper is still widespread in his home state of Montana. "Half the households around here have a freezer," he said. "In my family of four, 80 per cent of our meat is wild. I get two deer, one elk and one antelope a year, and that pretty much does us, apart from a few chickens we buy."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgians hold more protests

Brussels: Thousands protested again yesterday over official bungling in Belgium's child murder case as the Government began drafting reforms, including an end to the appointment of judges based on party allegiance (Charles Bremner writes).

In half a dozen towns, people stopped work in anger over "state indifference" in a paedophile ring said to have been led by Marc Dutroux. The protests, which were small in comparison with Sunday's "White March" in Brussels, signal continuing anger over what the political establishment concedes is a failure of the country's institutions. **Leading article, page 19**

Ortega defiant

Arnoldo Aleman of the Liberal Party Alliance claimed victory in Nicaragua's presidential election as early results showed him well ahead. But Sandinista rival Daniel Ortega refused to concede.

Mayor killed

Paris: Ali Boucetta, the Mayor of Algiers, was reported to have died in the Algerian capital, apparently hit by a stray bullet from a gun battle between Muslim guerrillas and security forces. (Reuters)

Nobel ban

Manila: José Ramos Horta, the East Timor Nobel Prize winner, will be barred from the Philippines during next month's summit of Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation leaders, a Manila official said.

Landsbergis win

Vilnius: Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian independence leader rejected in 1992, has made a comeback. His Homeland Union claimed 26 per cent, with a third of Sunday's votes counted. (Reuters)

Fugitive shot

Athens: Pavlos Keremidis, 37, one of Greece's most wanted criminals, died in a hail of gunfire when he tried to throw a grenade at police who cornered him in a hospital emergency room here. (AP)

Cathy waves goodbye to water retention

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TIMES 22/10

War fears grow as Rwandan troops attack Hutu camps

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

HUNDREDS of thousands of Hutu refugees yesterday fled their camps in Zaire after attacks by Rwanda's army and Zairean Tutsi warriors. The Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Army and their tribal allies in Zaire also fought with Zairean soldiers in battles that threaten to plunge the region into full-scale war.

Western diplomatic and intelligence sources confirmed yesterday that Rwandan troops had crossed into Zaire north of Goma and south of Bukavu at the weekend and attacked Rwandan Hutu who have lived in eastern Zaire since 1994.

At least 220,000 Hutus from camps on the Rusizi River plain near Uvira have formed a vast flood of human misery and yesterday afternoon were marching towards the Zairean lakeside town of Bukavu.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was desperately trying to move to aid workers from their Uvira homes. The foreign staff had been trapped for several days by fighting between the Hutus — backed by the Zairean Army — and Tutsis. On Sunday refugees were forced on to the Uvira airstrip by their own leaders to

prevent an evacuation flight from landing. Yesterday diplomats hoped to arrange for the aid workers to drive the short distance from Uvira to the Burundi border.

The explosion of fighting and confusing tribal alliances has its roots in the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda. In July 1994 more than a million Hutus fled advancing Tutsi rebels, who stopped the mass slaughter, and have since been living in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi. From camps funded with foreign aid they have continued to raid Rwanda, killing Tutsis.

Zaire's administration in Kivu province recently formed an alliance with the Hutu extremists and vowed to drive out of the country 400,000

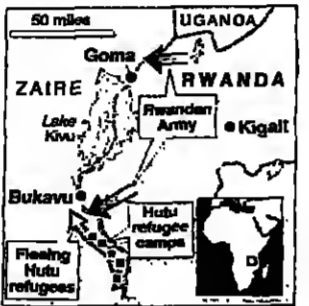
Zairean Tutsis who have lived there for 200 years. With the apparent backing of Rwanda, the Tutsis fought back at the weekend, sparking the mass Hutu exodus.

Yesterday officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were bracing themselves for an influx back into Rwanda. "If the camps around Goma [North of Lake Kivu] go the same way as those in Uvira, then we're going to have a nightmare on our hands," said one senior UNHCR official.

Meanwhile, Western ambassadors in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, were anxious to persuade the Government to pull its commandos out of the area to prevent an escalation into war with Zaire.

However, Rwanda's military spokesman denied any Rwandan soldiers had taken part in attacks on Hutu camps or the Zairean Army.

However, aid sources said at least 60 Hutus had been killed and several vehicles destroyed by Rwandan commandos in camps close to Goma. Intelligence sources said 1,700 Rwandan commandos were standing by to help their tribal allies in Zaire, close to Bukavu.



Zaire's administration in Kivu province recently formed an alliance with the Hutu extremists and vowed to drive out of the country 400,000 Zairean Tutsis who have lived there for 200 years. With the apparent backing of Rwanda, the Tutsis fought back at the weekend, sparking the mass Hutu exodus.

Japanese coalition prospects brighten

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

BUOYED by Sunday's election result, Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday invited two minority partners in the outgoing coalition to join his dominant Liberal Democrats in forming a new Government, as potential defectors from the opposition were poised to join the winning side.

Horse-trading began in earnest just hours after the Prime Minister's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) emerged as the biggest winner, boosting its strength from 211 to 239 seats but falling short of a majority in the 500-seat lower house.

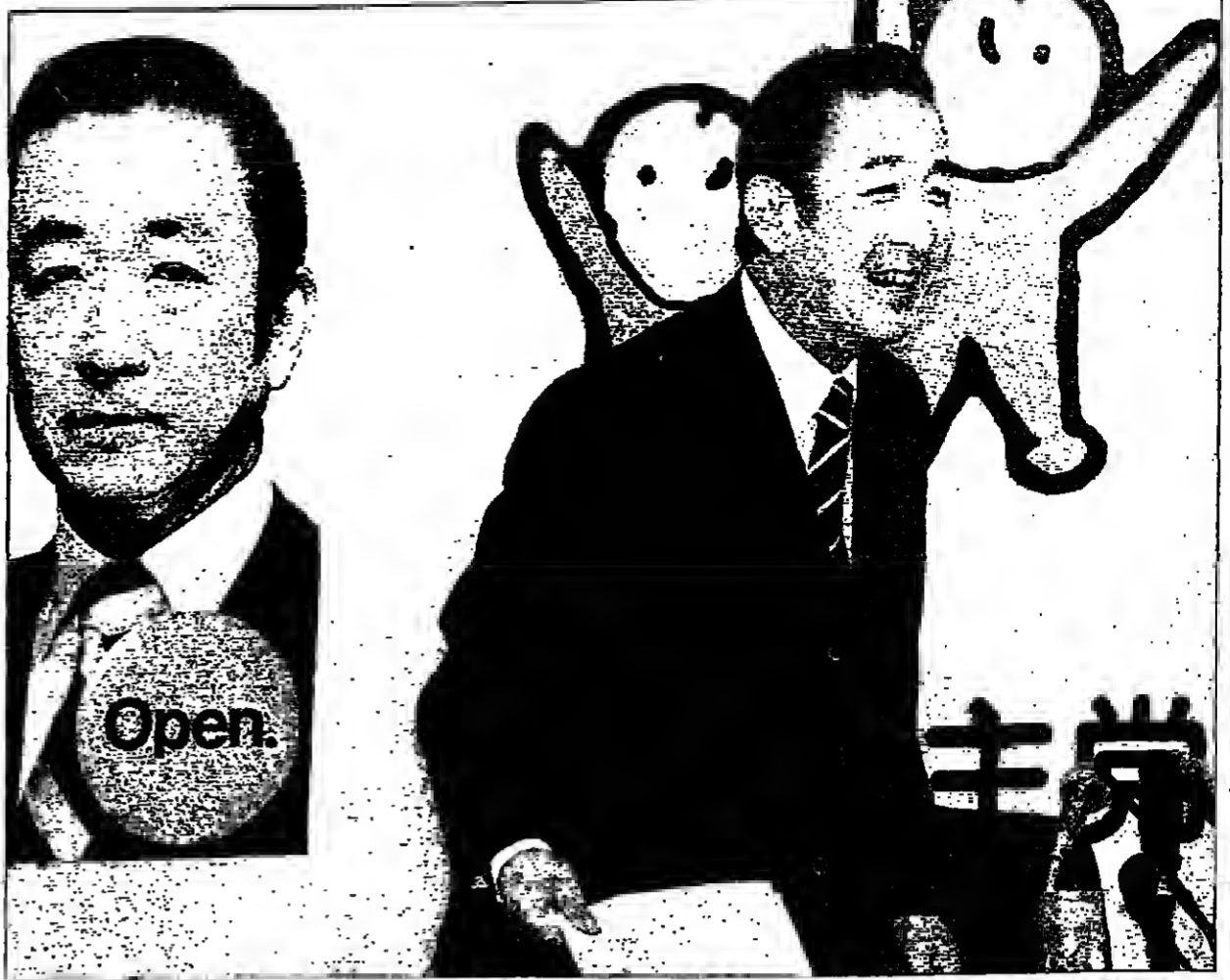
Mr Hashimoto met the leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Sakigake Party to ask them to stay in the two-year-old coalition, declaring that voters had "shown support" for this arrangement.

However, Takako Doi, leader of the SDP (long known as the Socialist Party of Japan) had earlier said her party would not renew its alliance with the conservatives. The partnership had destroyed its credibility, with Social Democrats winning only 15 seats against 30 in the last parliament. The Sakigake, an LDP splinter group,

did even worse, reduced from nine to two seats. While Mr Hashimoto told journalists he would not rule out drawing on the support of other groups, it emerged that his aides had discreetly sounded out ten potential defectors from the main opposition Shinshinto Party. Later one of the Prime Minister's colleagues predicted that more than a dozen members of Shinshinto would return to their old home in the LDP.

The Shinshinto, an uneasy mix including LDP renegades like its leader, Ichiro Ozawa, and politicians linked to the lay Buddhist cult Soka Gakkai, fared

poorly, falling from 160 to 156 seats. Pressure on Mr Ozawa to step down may intensify, all the more likely if Mr Hashimoto — Mr Ozawa's arch-rival — wins over disgruntled members as partners in his Government. Analysts say it is only a matter of time before the fragmentation of Shinshinto.



Ryutaro Hashimoto arrives yesterday at LDP headquarters where a poster proclaims his openness to change

Mr Hashimoto, 59, may also lure the Democratic Party, formed a month ago, into an alliance if the terms are right. At a press conference Mr Hashimoto said he would honour his campaign pledge of whitening down Japan's bloated bureaucracy.

Leading article, page 19

Mafia 'Beast' on trial for murder

FROM FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN CALTANISSETTA AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A FORMER Mafia "boss of bosses", once nicknamed "The Beast" for his record of sadistic cruelty, went on trial in Sicily yesterday for the murder of Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge blown up with five bodyguards in July 1992.

Salvatore "Totò" Riina, who has been in custody since January 1993, was charged with 17 other *mafiosi*. He sat alone in one of the cages used for Mafia trials in the purpose-built, high-security Caltanissetta courtroom, wearing a dark grey suit.

Riina, who has already received nine life sentences, spoke briefly to his defence lawyer but made no attempt to communicate with the other defendants in nearby cages. The opening of the trial was attended by relatives of the policemen killed with Judge Borsellino who, at the time of his death in 1992, had just taken over as chief anti-Mafia prosecutor from

Judge Giovanni Falcone, also murdered by the Mafia.

The two killings deeply shocked the nation, and Riina, betrayed by his own driver, was caught in a massive crackdown. Italians discovered that the legendary *capo dei capi*, who had evaded capture for 20 years, was a squat man in his sixties with the build and hands of a peasant from the Corleone hills.

Five of the accused *mafiosi* were charged in absentia, including Pietro Aglieri, still on the run, who is suspected of pressing the remote control button to detonate the car bomb.

The trial comes after disclosures by a Mafia *pentito* or "supergrass", Vincenzo Scarantino, who admitted placing explosives in Judge Borsellino's car. He named Riina as the mastermind.

It coincides with growing doubts over

the value of evidence from the 1,200 Italian Mafia *pentiti*, including Giovanni Brusca, Riina's successor as *capo dei capi*. Brusca — like Riina from the Corleone clan — was arrested in May after six years on the run. During the summer, with the power of the Mafia crumbling, it emerged that he had turned state witness.

Yesterday magistrates said Brusca's evidence was "dubious". He had accused Mafia members of crimes they could not have committed and, in some cases, his evidence had contradicted testimony of his younger brother, Enzo.

Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister whose trial for alleged Mafia links is largely based on *pentiti* evidence, said the growing doubt cast on Brusca's reliability showed he and other "supergrasses" could not be trusted.

Police insist de Klerk knew of apartheid-era atrocities

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

FIVE former South African security policemen suggested yesterday that F.W. de Klerk, the former President, had lied when he claimed recently that apartheid atrocities had never been authorised by his Government.

In an opening statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, read by their lawyer, the five said they "seriously doubted" the National Party leader's claims before the commission that he had been unaware of government-authorised murder, tor-

ture and assaults. They went on to call on the previous Government to admit authorising unlawful actions.

In a statement coloured by Afrikaans poetry and quotes from speeches, the policemen denied they were criminals and said the killing of more than 40 people was to defend the Nationalist Government.

The case is regarded as the most significant so far heard by the commission, set up to investigate abuses under apartheid, offer reparations to victims and grant amnesty to perpetrators.

The men, who include a brigadier and colonel, have

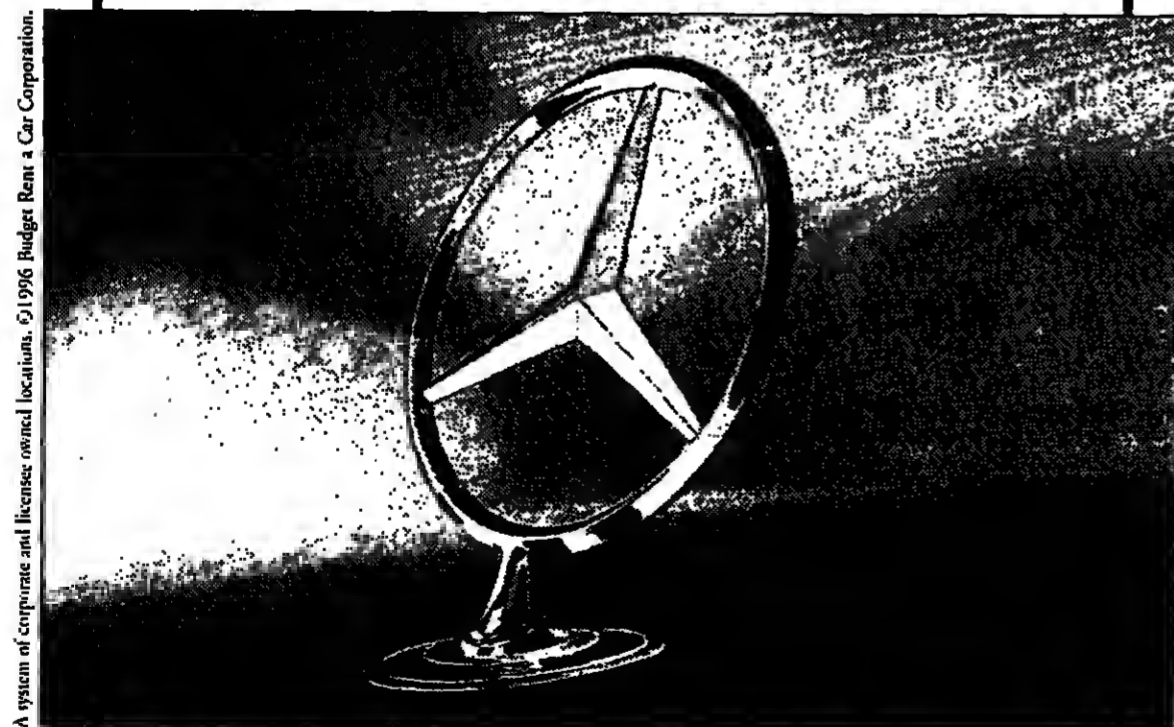
admitted involvement in a number of "dirty tricks" operations which they claim were carried out on behalf of the white minority regime in defence of apartheid. To win amnesty they must show their crimes were associated with political objectives.

In a separate development, a submission by the apartheid South African Defence Force was criticised as one-sided for failing to mention any unlawful acts that it had committed. George Meiring, who heads the post-apartheid National Defence Force, promised full co-operation with the commission.



Meiring, happy to help the truth commission

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11.4%	£17,500	178.88	198.03	240.27	379.79
	£15,000	154.01	169.74	205.95	325.54
	£10,000	102.67	113.16	137.30	217.03
12.4%	£9,000	97.97	106.98	128.19	199.38
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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1996

Deutsche Telekom float could reap £400m for Britons

By OLIVER AUGUST
BRITISH investors are set to make a profit of up to £400 million from the floatation of Deutsche Telekom, the German phone group. A price range of 25 to 30 marks was announced yesterday in Europe's biggest-ever public offering.

Deutsche options on Germany's grey market started trading at 35 to 40 marks. The UK will be offered up to 12 per cent of the shares, which represents a £1 billion stake. The exact offering price of the shares will be set on November 17, with trading due to begin the next day. Roadshows in brief investors will start today. The offering is expected to be strongly oversubscribed, with small shareholders receiving a half-mark discount on the first 300 shares. Some 3.5 million Germans have already applied for their share quota.

Ron Sommer, the Deutsche chief executive, said: "The signals are clear. Institutional investors as well as retail investors are showing a strong willingness to buy. We are firmly convinced that this price range very closely corresponds to the market's expectations." He declined to say if the green shoe option, the issuing of an extra 75 million shares on top of the regular 500 million shares, will be exercised immediately. But analysts have said there is little doubt that the option will be used on the first day to satisfy demand.

Analysts have also moved their price predictions upwards following the strong interest on the grey market, with the final share price now expected to be at the top end of the bookbuilding range. "The final share price is likely to be more towards the top end of the range than the lower," said an analyst at the Co-operative Bank. "I've heard from institutional investors that they are prepared to pay around 27 to 29 marks."

The activity on the grey market suggests that the share price will rise sharply on the first day. In such a scenario, many small shareholders are expected to throw their shares on to the market to lock in profits. The grey market refers to the market provided by brokers prior to a formal offering which is not subject to official controls. Shares are sold in advance of the offering and the contracts are honoured when the offering actually takes place.

Udo Baader, the Munich brokerage, said the options were trading between 37 and 39 marks, while Ballmaier & Schulz, a Frankfurt firm, quoted prices of between 38 and 38.5 marks. Dealers said there was strong interest in the grey market in Deutsche shares. Around two thirds of the issue will be placed in Germany and 13 to 18 per cent has been earmarked for the Americas. Between 8 and 12 per cent will go to Britain. The rest of Europe will receive between 5 and 8 per cent.

Joachim Krosske, Deutsche's finance director, said: "With the allocation of one third of the tranche abroad we will underline the internationality of our floatation."

Pennington, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4073.1 (+20.0)
Yield	3.94%
FTSE All share	1994.54 (+7.09)
Nikkei	21302.55 (+309.55)
New York	
Dow Jones	8115.47 (+21.24)
S&P Composite	712.46 (+1.54)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/8% (5 1/8%)
Long Bond	9 3/8% (9 3/8%)
Yield	6.75% (6 7/8%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	6% (5 1/2%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2% (10 1/2%)

STERLING	
New York	1.5920* (1.5875)
London	
\$	1.5905 (1.5911)
DM	2.4433 (2.4550)
FF	2.0111 (2.0263)
Sfr	179.31 (179.11)
Yen	89.0 (89.3)
S Index	89.0 (89.3)

DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.5395* (1.5421)
FF	1.2518 (1.2570)
Sfr	1.2645* (1.2704)
Yen	112.72* (112.58)
S Index	87.7 (87.8)

GOLD	
London close	\$381.85 (\$380.25)

Clarke and CBI unite to revive PFI

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday struck a deal with the Confederation of British Industry to investigate the much criticised private finance initiative.

The initiative, which brings commercial cash into public infrastructure projects, is to have less red tape, more flexibility of investment and occasional reimbursement of bidding costs for companies tendering for big schemes. The joint endeavour by the Treasury and the CBI on the initiative, which now covers deals worth £7 billion, is a response to a stream of concerns from industry over delays and complex processes dogging projects.

Kenneth Clarke told a conference on the PFI, which followed a critical report in the summer from the CBI: "The battle over the principles of PFI has been won, we are now tackling the practicalities." He said the new measures to smooth PFI execution, such as more standardised contracts as opposed to a deal-by-deal approach from government officials, were a response to attacks on the scheme. "We have listened. We have learned. We are taking action."

Turner said the PFI, which was launched in 1992, was at a critical stage. While there had been some early successes, the programme needed perseverance in order to work and "realism about what PFI can and cannot achieve".

Delays have occurred in a series of public projects for which most of the large construction companies have bid, with particular problems in hospital and road building. But while construction and engineering companies have been the harshest critics of the operation of PFI, there have been recent signs of more optimism. In the last round of construction companies' results several said they were far more hopeful of PFI success.

Labour, while supporting the principles of PFI, said that public spending could spiral out of control if tighter controls were not exercised. Alistair Darling, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The Treasury evidence to the Select Committee was that there are no mechanisms in place to monitor forward commitments in a systematised way. The Government must put in place such controls immediately."



Heads of the Canary Wharf companies went for an unusual lunchtime stroll to mark the final link in the construction of the £2.5 billion Jubilee Line extension tunnel. Michael Pickard, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corp, second from right, escorted them under the Thames from Canada Water to Canary Wharf. With Mr Pickard are, from the back, Michael Smith, David Alexander, David Vaughan, Sir Peter Middleton, Sir David Walker and Colette Bowe

Pearson shares leap ahead despite BSkyB bid denial

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Pearson leapt by 33 1/2 p yesterday as the stock market had its first chance to react to reports that BSkyB was planning a takeover of the media conglomerate.

Pearson shares ended the day 5 per cent higher, at 730p, with more than 6.7 million shares changing hands. Pearson's interests include The Financial Times, Penguin Books and Thames Television.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, has said that neither the satellite broadcaster nor News Corporation, its major shareholder and the parent company of The Times, was in talks about making a bid for Pearson. This seemed to leave open the possibility of BSkyB buying Pearson television interests, but even this seemed unlikely last night.

FT-SE 100 soars after Wall St cheer

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SHARE prices in London enjoyed their third consecutive day of gains to close at another record. The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares finished just a whisker shy of its best-ever level to end the day 20.0 points up at 4,073.1, marking a 10.4 per cent rise on the year.

Despite the euphoria, an increasing number of institutional investors and brokers are recommending a switch from equities into cash. Many of them are convinced that a correction is long overdue. Some are even predicting a crash, no doubt inspired by the ninth anniversary of the 1987 crash on Friday.

Stock market, page 30

Racing Green founder sells to Burton for £19m

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DAVID KRANTZ made his second fortune yesterday, pocketing about £15 million from the sale to Burton of the Racing Green home shopping business he founded five years ago.

Mr Krantz, 43, also founded Blazer, the men's clothing chain that was sold in 1987 to Storehouse, then run by Sir Terence Conran. Storehouse paid £5.4 million, most of which went

to Mr Krantz. As owner of about 80 per cent of Hemingway Limited, the company which trades as Racing Green, Mr Krantz can expect to collect more than £15 million of the £19 million paid by Burton yesterday.

The clothing group paid £15 million cash plus 2.7 million new Burton shares. An extra payment of £1 million is possible depending on performance in the year to December.

Mr Krantz will stay full-time for three months with Racing Green, which specialises in selling casual wear. He will then act as a consultant. Burton said Racing Green will complement the Innovations mail order business, bought in July this year for £45 million. Both companies will be managed within a new home shopping division.

Mr Krantz said he had decided to sell Racing Green because: "My skills are in growing a business. At a certain size, it becomes a repetitive cycle of jobs to do."

street retailing accounts for around one third of its £18 million annual sales. Andrew Higginson, finance director of Burton, said the group wants to develop Racing Green as a high street brand. "Its sales are only about 1 per cent of the Burton Group's, but the reputation is bigger than that," Mr Higginson said.

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City Diary, page 31

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SkyePharma agrees deal on new drug

By PAUL DURMAN

SKYEPHARMA, the fledgling drugs company headed by Ian Gowrie Smith, has agreed a deal that will secure rights to its most important product to date.

The deal, with two US drug companies, could produce substantial profits for SkyePharma from 1999 onwards. The British company will receive 41 per cent of the income from sales of a new treatment for angina and hypertension.

The new drug is a "bio-equivalent" version of Procardia XL, an off-patent Pfizer drug with sales approaching \$2 billion a year.

SkyePharma has signed a letter of intent to take over rights to the drug previously held by Gensia, a Californian company. Gensia, previously a high-flier, is trying to conserve its cash resources after the failure in late-stage trials of a cardiovascular drug.

SkyePharma expects to spend about \$10 million completing the development of the drug in collaboration with Boehringer Mannheim, a Maryland drugs company and Gensia's former partner. SkyePharma will pay Gensia a 10 per cent royalty on sales that it is hoped will run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

SkyePharma and Boehringer Mannheim intend to apply to register the drug with the US Food and Drug Administration next year. The US authorities are keen to encourage the switch to cheaper generic drugs. Shares in SkyePharma rose 6p to 83p.



Ian Gowrie Smith hopes that the treatment will yield substantial profits for SkyePharma from 1999 onwards

Economy ripe for tax rise, says forecaster

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STRENGTHENING consumer spending and a public deficit that is yet again overshooting forecasts by the Government mean that taxes ought to be raised rather than lowered, according to Oxford Economic Forecasting.

Oxford is predicting that consumer spending will rise by 3.7 per cent this year and by 3.75 per cent in 1997, fuelled by tax cuts, low interest rates, rising household wealth and windfalls from building society mergers. And consumer spending will largely be responsible for overall growth of 2.4 per cent this year, accelerating to 3.3 per cent in 1997.

This, says Oxford Economic Forecasting, makes it very difficult to justify tax cuts in next month's Budget although

it believes that the Chancellor will nevertheless offer modest reductions of between £2 billion and £3 billion, matched by spending cuts.

The Chancellor should instead be tightening fiscal policy in order to allow interest rates to remain low and so encourage investment. The economy is overly dependent on the consumer, Oxford Economic Forecasting adds.

Although investment appears to have risen at an annualised rate of 6.6 per cent in the first half of this year, the forecaster says that this figure needs to be interpreted cautiously. It notes that virtually all of the rise in investment recorded in the second quarter was due to one-off purchases of aircraft and that manufac-

turing investment fell by 4.7 per cent in the second quarter after a 4.2 per cent drop in the first.

Despite optimism on consumer spending, it emphasises that a replay of the 1980s boom is unlikely. It notes that the "feel-good" factor is still being undermined by job insecurity and that the ratio of debt to income is still close to its peak.

The latest European Commission Confidence Survey compiled by GfK shows, if anything, a slight weakening of consumer confidence in October from September. Its confidence index slid back to minus two, from minus one. However, this is still strongly up on a year ago when the index stood at minus eight.

David Walker, Associate Director of GfK, said that a more detailed breakdown shows that the greatest rise in confidence has been in the South with the reading moving from minus six a year ago to plus one in October.

In terms of age groups, the biggest improvement came in the 50 to 64 category, with a reading of minus 12 improving to minus four. Of the four income categories that GfK analysed, the biggest improvement in confidence came in those households with annual income of between £7,000 and £14,499. The index in this category rose from minus 11 a year ago to minus one in October.

Janet Bush, page 31

Prince set to pay £350m for Princess hotels

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi Arabian investor, is poised to buy the luxury Princess hotel chain from Lohrro for about £350 million.

"I will be the sole owner of the Princess hotels," the prince told *Al-Hayat*, a Saudi newspaper. He said he had been given the "sole negotiating right" to bid for the hotels. Other potential buyers appear to have dropped out as Dieter Bock, chief executive of Lohrro, travelled to Riyadh last week to push ahead with the negotiations, which are expected to be completed in the next ten days.

Prince Waleed is already a substantial investor in hotels. There are eight Princess hotels around the Caribbean, in Bermuda, Barbados and the Bahamas, as well as in Mexico, and Palm Springs and Scottsdale in the US.

The prince said he would sell the casinos operated by the Princess hotels and get his 50 per cent-owned Fairmont Hotel Management company to manage the chain.

Mr Bock originally proposed to float the Princess hotels and the UK-based Metropole chain on the London Stock Exchange earlier this year. However, the issue was abandoned in August when individual buyers emerged who were likely to offer more than the share offering would have raised.

Stakis, the UK casino and hotel operator, is interested in the five Metropole hotels, thought to be worth around £300 million.

The hotel sales would be a major step in Mr Bock's campaign to restructure Lohrro. The attractiveness of the hotels to potential buyers was helped by a 71 per cent rise in operating profits to \$66.7 million last year.

The Princess hotels will add to Prince Waleed's increasingly diverse portfolio of international investments, which include a stake in Canary Wharf and in Citicorp, the US banking group, as well as EuroDisney and Saks Fifth Avenue, the upmarket New York clothes store.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Japanese shares hit by election result

JAPANESE shares slid sharply, while government bonds surged to a record high yesterday after Sunday's general election, which left the pro-business Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) without a clear majority. The Nikkei 225 average fell 309.35 points, or 1.43 per cent, to close at 21,302.95 in subdued trading. The dollar rose briefly to a high of 112.89 yen, its strongest since January 1994, before easing slightly.

In the bond market, the key December Japanese government bond (JGB) futures contract responded to the poor showing of the Shinshinto, or New Frontier Party, by surging to 123.70 yen, an all-time high for any benchmark, before ending with hefty gains.

Market operators are concerned that yet another unwieldy coalition government could lead to friction over policies and impede Japan's already sluggish economic recovery. Foreign exchange dealers agreed that the make-up of the coalition was likely to make the most difference in the long run.

Oil companies ahead

THREE American oil companies enjoyed a jump in third-quarter earnings, helped by strong production and higher oil and natural gas prices that more than offset weakness in refining operations. Texaco said net earnings jumped 50 per cent. Chevron Corp reported a 29 per cent increase excluding special items and Exxon Corp, the largest US oil company, said profits rose 4 per cent. The results were in line with or slightly better than expectations on Wall Street. But Mobil said net earnings fell to \$769 million from \$786 million, hurt by weak refining and marketing results.

Nabisco advances 17%

RJR Nabisco, the tobacco and food company, reported a 17 per cent rise in third-quarter profits and forecast continued strong results. The company earned \$216 million in the three months to September 30, compared with \$185 million in the third quarter of the previous year, when its results were reduced by hefty payments for early retirement of debt and preferred dividends. Revenues rose 7 per cent to \$4.3 billion, from \$4.1 billion. Worldwide tobacco sales rose 5 per cent to \$2.1 billion, while cigarette volume gained 4 per cent.

Aberdeen fights back

ABERDEEN Steak Huuses, the restaurants chain severely affected by the BSE scare, said yesterday that there had been a steady recovery in demand for beef products. The company incurred losses of £722,000 before tax in the half-year June 30, against profits of £242,000 previously, but said it expected to earn a profit for the year as a whole. Second-half results will be assisted by a contribution from two new restaurants near Victoria station, central London. Refurbishment of a third London branch at Regent Street will be completed for Christmas. The loss per share was 4.6p (0.6p earnings).

Goodyear increases

GOODYEAR, the US tyre and rubber producer, announced third-quarter net income of \$170.2 million, an increase of 8.1 per cent from \$157.5 million in the third quarter of the previous year. However, sales fell to \$3.27 billion from \$3.31 billion. The company said that revenues were affected by lower sales of original equipment tyres in North America, competitive pricing pressures and a strengthening of the dollar. For the nine months, net income increased 9.7 per cent to \$509.9 million from \$464.6 million.

Optimism on US jobs

NEARLY half the large and mid-sized companies in the United States plan to create jobs over the next 12 months, the American Management Association reported yesterday. The AMA said that a survey of 1,441 companies showed that in the 12 months to June, 68 per cent added new jobs to their payrolls, compared with 58 per cent in the previous period, suggesting the average workforce grew 6 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent. Over the next year, 46 per cent of the companies surveyed intend to add jobs.

Moulinex confirms cuts

MOULINEX, the French electrical appliance company, yesterday confirmed it planned to cut jobs by 22 per cent but would try to avoid layoffs by introducing flexible schedules and reorganising manufacturing activities. After a stormy meeting with staff representatives, Moulinex confirmed the broad outlines of a plan announced in June for 2,600 job cuts, including 2,100 in France, and the closure of two French plants. In June, the company reported a loss for 1995/96 of Fr702 million, its fourth consecutive annual loss.

US fibre network plan

FRONTIER CORPORATION, the American telecommunication company, plans to build a \$2 billion fibre-optic network across the United States in partnership with the private Quest Communications. Frontier is to invest almost \$500 million in the project. Lucent Technologies will supply the cable for what Frontier says will be the largest single US fibre-optic network built as one project. The network will connect almost 100 cities and provide coast-to-coast connection when it is completed in 1998.

New Euro Disney post

PHILIPPE BOURGUIGNON, chairman since April 1993 of Euro Disney, the theme park and hotels group operator, is to take the new position of executive vice-president for Walt Disney Europe. In his expanded role, M Bourguignon will work with European heads of each of Disney's major operating units to boost Disney's businesses in Europe. Walt Disney Europe said. His primary responsibility will continue to be the Disneyland Paris resort, which posted a profit in 1995 after several years at the brink of bankruptcy.

Angry names claim Lloyd's has reneged

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LLOYD'S of London was yesterday accused of "reneging" on its final settlement after a number of names claimed to have received new demands for tens of thousands of pounds in payments.

Some who had been sent letters believed they had settled their bills and accused Lloyd's of miscalculating the sums owed. Others said they agreed to waive their legal rights and abide by the settlement as long as they were given a breakdown of how the sum had been reached. They claimed this had not been done.

Christopher Stockwell,

chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party, accused Lloyd's of "trying to pressure names".

Mr Stockwell said: "Lloyd's has made a contract with those names. It is disgraceful that it is now trying to renege on it."

Lloyd's denied that it was reneging on contracts. A spokesman said that reminders had been sent to names who owed money. Philip Holden, head of the financial recovery department of Lloyd's, last month said that non-payers would be pursued relentlessly.

Crunch-time delayed in Penguin war on Puffin

A HIGH COURT hearing to decide whether to ban Asda, the supermarket group, from selling its own-brand Puffin biscuits will take place in February (Sarah Cunningham writes).

United Biscuits, which launched Penguins more than 60 years ago, is suing Asda for trademark infringement and "passing off", after the launch five weeks ago of the Puffin

biscuit. The court must decide whether the name and wrapper design adopted by Asda is so similar to Penguin's that it should be banned.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday, Mr Justice Chadwick agreed with both sides that there should be an "expedited hearing". In the context of such complex matters, this will mean sometime next February.

Recovery may not stop BA from taking flight

USAir prepares to go solo

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

USAIR, the airline that is 25 per cent owned by British Airways, almost doubled its earnings for the third quarter, continuing a recovery that began earlier this year.

Despite the improvement after years of losses, USAir is almost certain to sever its ties with BA if the British airline's proposed alliance with American Airways goes ahead. USAir has already filed a US court action demanding that BA sell its stake in the company and allow USAir to compete independently.

USAir reported a \$108 million profit for the quarter, but the final figure was reduced after \$41.1 million was set aside

to cover profit-sharing obligations. Stephen Wolf, chairman, said the airline industry benefited from good economic conditions, and that USAir's load factor — the percentage of each aircraft filled with passengers — had risen slightly to around 70 per cent.

However, USAir continues to have the highest cost base of any US airline, and its failure to reduce the high wages of its staff is causing shareholders to worry. Warren Buffett, the stock market investor, is trying to sell his 10 per cent stake, which is now worth substantially less than the \$358 million he paid for it. But USAir's stronger financial performance means that it is able to pay Mr Buffett and BA \$40 million in previously unpaid dividends that were suspended when the

company was incurring losses. USAir's ability to pay the back dividend may make it easier for Mr Buffett to find a buyer for his stake in the next few months.

USAir also expects British Airways to sell its stake once it completes its merger with American. The deal depends on US and UK government agreement on an "open skies" policy, which would give the carriers greater access to each other's airports.

A link with American would give BA a stronger US presence than partnership with USAir. "We can't be part of that alliance," said Rick Weintruh, a USAir spokesman. "We don't have the anti-trust immunity to do so, so we must be allowed to compete on our own."

THE TIMES

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BP sign \$2.5bn d... in China

□ Deutsche Telekom's easy lesson □ Will the Chancellor do his cut-price duty? □ Out of Africa with Algy Cluff

Dialling an instant profit

□ THE Germans may be rather better at making cars or kitchens, but by jingo, we can give them a few lessons in flogging off the family silver. The Deutsche Telekom float is heavily modelled on the huge British privatisations of the past decade, one of the first of which was our own dear BT in 1984.

The parallels with BT are even stronger, because DT is being sold into a similar maelstrom of uncertainty. BT shares have underperformed the market since 1993 because of a harsh regulatory regime designed to allow competitors to take a larger share of the market. Germany may shortly also have to open up its wholesale phone market to competition.

The risk-averse Germans, with bitter memories of the war and before, have never been keen on equities. Smaller investors go for bonds, certain the Bundesbank will safeguard their value by keeping inflation low and the mark high. Real money goes into property. There are several reasons why this should change. Like France, Germany suffers from having a mass of unmodernised middle-ranking companies, the so-called *Mittelstand*, generally family-controlled and preferring to stay that way and shunning equity capital. Modernisation will require outside investors to come

in. Second, chronic pensions underfunding will require a higher-risk, higher-return approach to investment for old age in future, which means equities.

The British approach to privatisation is to undervalue the shares from the outset and add a few bells and whistles in the form of huge dividends to persuade the private punter, who gets priority anyway. This deprives the institutions and makes them chase the shares in the after-market, so ensuring a healthy premium in first trading.

DT's advisers have not so much taken a leaf out of this book, they have borrowed the whole library. The shares, at the top of their indicative price range, offer a gross yield approaching 6 per cent, and there are additional discounts to private investors. The price should rise by as much as 30 per cent on the first day of dealing.

The company will make up 5 per cent of the German share index. "Anyone found by their investors to have missed it will be nailed to the wall," said one Frankfurt fund manager. This is the classic self-fulfilling proph-

cy, and DT shares are the closest thing yet to a certain profit, an even better bet short term than those earlier British privatisations.

But this will tempt some private investors to sell and bank the cost of next year's holiday early. The price may not hold; it all depends on the legal moves by competitors in Brussels and how well they can be resisted. For investors outside Germany, the value of their investment can only be protected if the German authorities can be persuaded to drag their feet and keep DT in the dark ages. *Hardly vorprung durch technik*, is it?

Will liquid assets help canny Ken?

□ IT is hard to imagine any politician could be so cynical as to cut taxes deliberately so close to an election in an attempt to sway the opinions of the electorate, and even harder to believe the electorate would fall for it. But it is being whispered that Kenneth Clarke might be contemplating so monstrous an

PENNINGTON



action in next month's Budget. Nothing significant, not income tax cuts, of course — they are already in the bag. A penny off, to 23p in the pound, appears to be the general reckoning, and it could hardly be much less than that, could it? No, the tax cuts being whispered are off the price of liquor, what used to be called the working man's pint and must in these times also take in the odd glass of Chardonnay for his boss. Some in the drinks industry believe Mr Clarke might be tempted to cut a couple of pence off each, in the hope that the resulting tide of public euphoria might be enough to sweep him back to Number 11.

The City doesn't believe this, and a weekend study by UBS,

the broker, forecast increases on beer and wine in line with inflation. If Mr Clarke does decide to cut duty, it will have had little to do with the ritual pre-Budget submissions from the drinks lobby. Yesterday was Trafalgar Day, and a scattering of pubs across the country with suitably patriotic names were offering beer at prices available in France, where duty is 26p a pint less. As part of the same last-minute lobbying, the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association is to see the Chancellor this week. The same arguments will be trotted out about the cost to jobs of the cross-Channel booze cruise and the iniquities of being able to buy lousy French beer for less than good British ale.

No one in the drinks industry seriously believes the Chancellor will see the light and allow duty to fall to Continental levels overnight — the health lobby would never stand for it, for one thing. The industry every year merely hopes to limit the upward rise in duty and a standstill, as in 1995, generally counts as a victory. The decision to cut a penny off a pint, as an example,

would take about £100 million off tax revenues. If and when they come to buy your vote, at least you know now what it is worth.

Algy on the joys of Zaire

□ IF timing is all, then Algy Cluff's timing could not have been worse. Yesterday his Cluff Mining, for reasons that are not entirely clear, arranged a briefing for City fund managers and analysts about the joys of investing in Zaire. A couple of days previously, this huge state in western Africa, rich in terms of mineral wealth and poor even by African standards, had seen the outbreak of civil war.

Visiting the UK and talking to the City was the Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo. He is not to be confused with President Mobutu, currently in Switzerland, convenient for him should he ever wish to count those numbered accounts, even if the state of his health is uncertain. In a recent study on parts of the world where inward investment is endangered by corrup-

tion or high credit risk, Zaire failed even to make the list. There is not enough business there. The country is the original kleptocracy, where corruption, embezzlement and theft are the normal methods for the exchange of goods. Outside firms forced to work there tell tales of illegal dealing on the currency markets to ensure their workforce can be paid at all, such is the chaos in the banking system. And don't even try to use the telephones.

Free elections are promised next year, which is when free elections take place in Zaire — always next year. Someone, somehow, is going to find a way of liberating the enormous wealth of countries like Zaire without too much of it sticking to the local *apparatchiks*. But one feels it may not be Algy Cluff.

Wages of fear

□ PROPOSALS to make "ageism" an offence would seem to miss the point. There is little use in creating yet another segment of aggrieved litigants to clog up industrial tribunals. The usual reason older employees are discriminated against or replaced with their younger equivalents is simple. Having mortgages, children and other encumbrances, they are more likely to demand a living wage.



Rufus Bond Gunning, left, and Richard Williams, finance director, have pushed the button for a £22 million placing

Provend to make market debut

By FRASER NELSON
PROVEND, one of Britain's largest vending machine companies, is coming to the Stock Exchange in a placing that is expected to value the firm at £22 million.
Rufus Bond Gunning, the managing director, said that the company hopes to raise £10 million from the flotation in order to reduce debt and fuel its acquisition power. He added that Provend had been approached by smaller companies and was already in the process of making a medium-sized acquisition.
Formed from a buyout from Sketchley in 1991, Provend now runs 15,000 vending machines across the country, 7,000 of which are also under further contracts for cleaning and filling. It also runs a range of "automated staff restaurants", where complete meals are purchased through the machines in a staff canteen that can stay open for 24 hours.
Provend currently owes £4.02 million through bank borrowings and loan stock. The company aims to reduce gearing to 10 per cent after the flotation.
Mr Bond Gunning was recruited by Sketchley to restructure its machine vending arm, which lost £6.8 million in 1990. After the buyout, backed by Candover and ECI, Provend returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £1.21 million in the year to June 30, on sales of £41.5 million.
While his post-flotation shareholding has not been settled, Mr Bond Gunning is expected to become a paper millionaire.

Greycoat attacks 'crazy' sale plan

By PAUL DURMAN
GREYCOAT, the property company under attack from one of its largest shareholders, said yesterday that it was "crazy" to suggest selling off its £500 million portfolio of central London properties.
Funds managed by Brian Myerson's Active Value Advisors are pressing Greycoat to sell its portfolio of investments — effectively winding up the company. Greycoat was forced yesterday to call an extraordinary meeting, which is likely to be held late next month, to allow shareholders to debate this proposal.
Peter Thornton, Greycoat's managing director, said the threat from Active Value was "an unwelcome and costly distraction". He added: "It's crazy to start talking about what will effectively be a fire sale of our properties in a rising market."
Active Value, which controls 10.6 per cent of Greycoat, is unhappy that the property company's shares trade at a discount of more than 20 per cent to their net asset value. Mr Myerson, a Greycoat director until March, is unconvinced by development plans and wants Greycoat to take advantage of the improving property market to unlock value for shareholders.
Mr Thornton said that Mr Myerson, unlike other shareholders, was only interested in short-term performance. "He's not a property guy... he's making a criticism about something that he does not understand." He also suggested that one reason for the large share price discount was that Active Value was regarded as a keen seller.

Happy £90m return for Birthdays group

By FRASER NELSON
RON WOOD, a former audit clerk who founded the Birthdays greeting card business, has sold his company to a buy-in team backed by Schroders and Prudential for £90 million.
Mr Wood, who set up Ron Wood Greeting Cards Holdings in 1969, gained £45 million from selling the bulk of his majority stake, and has agreed to re-invest £15 million of the proceeds for a 30 per cent share in the new company.
Bryan Robson, the former Manchester United player, was one of the original shareholders in the company, and is understood to have sold his 2 per cent stake. It would have been worth £1.8 million.
Schroders Ventures and Prudential Venture Managers have invested £15 million each in the buyout, and will share a 55 per cent share in the new company. It will be renamed Birthdays, after the brand name of the cards.
The company, based in Bury, Manchester, owns 330 shops and runs 50 franchise outlets. Over the last 25 years, it has become the market leader in greeting cards, giftwraps and tags. It also houses a wholesale division, which supplies confectioners, tobacconists and newsagents. In the year to end-June 1996, the company's operating profits were £11 million on turnover of £99.3 million.
The buyout team is led by John Lovring, who resigned as chief operating officer of Tarmac last year to pursue a £400 million buyout bid for the company's housebuilding division. The offer, also backed by Schroders and Prudential, was eventually beaten by Wimpey in a straight asset swap. Since then, Mr Lovring, who was also a former finance director of Sears, has been living in The Netherlands and looking to join another management buyout. He was recommended by Schroders for the job, and will now return to Britain to work full time as Birthdays' executive chairman.
Mr Wood will remain as a consultant to the company, but has resigned from the board. The remainder of its management structure will remain intact, and a commercial director will be recruited.
Mr Lovring said yesterday that he hopes to open up to 150 more outlets in the UK. He believed that Mr Robson, now manager of Middlesbrough, became involved with the company after getting to know Mr Wood in Manchester.
Schroders hopes to float the company on the stock market in less than three years.

BP signs \$2.5bn deal in China

BP Chemicals has signed a \$2.5 billion joint venture agreement with Sinopec Petrochemical Co to produce ethylene in China.
The agreement represents the largest commitment made by BP in China and will be formed on an equity basis, with BP providing cash and technology and SPC contributing existing chemical plants.
John Browne, chief executive of BP, said yesterday: "This venture will bring enduring benefits to China as well as deepening BP's position as a significant investor in one of the world's most dynamic economies." The project will have capacity to produce 650,000 tonnes of ethylene a year.
SPC is China's largest single petrochemical enterprise and the country's ninth largest industrial concern. It is also China's largest stock available for foreign investment, with a market capitalisation of about \$2 billion.

News Corp condemns raid

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF
THE News Corporation yesterday moved to criticise the Israeli income tax authorities after reports at the weekend that the offices of News Datacom Research Ltd, a subsidiary company of News Datacom Ltd, had been raided.
News Corp, the owner of both companies and the parent company of *The Times*, said it had been assured as recently as three weeks ago by the Israeli authorities that News Datacom Research Ltd was not under investigation. NDRL, a research and development subsidiary, reported its tax in the same manner as hundreds of other research and development subsidiaries of international companies in Israel, said News Corp.
"Given our full co-operation with the authorities, it is hard to understand the reason for the public and extreme action undertaken on October 20, 1996," said the statement. Neither NDRL nor its parent has produced cumulative operating profits prior to its financial year ending on June 30 so there was no question of tax evasion.
News Corp believes the investigation is being driven by an ex-employee and says it has "nothing to hide".

Upton's first profit since 1989

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM
UPTON & SOUTHERN, the Teesside department stores group, yesterday reported its first profit since 1989.
The company, which put the Reject Shop into receivership last year, made a pre-tax profit of £307,000 on sales of £8.95 million, in the year to July 27. Last year, it made a loss of £9.59 million on sales of £30.4 million. No dividend is to be paid on the ordinary shares.
Uptons, whose chairman is Ronald Trenter, bought the Reject Shop for £2.3 million in 1994 and put it into receivership 15 months later, after ringfencing its department stores.
The group's E Upton & Sons division, which operates three department stores and three smaller stores in the North East of England, had a like-for-like sales increase of 5.6 per cent during the year. In the first 11 weeks of the current year, like-for-like sales are 13 per cent ahead on the same time last year.



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OCTOBER 22 1996
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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Green erases Black memory

DAVID KRANTZ, the owner of Racing Green, which yesterday announced it was being bought by Burton Group for £19 million, already had October 21 etched on his memory. On that day nine years ago, Blazer, the chain of menswear stores he had founded, was due to be floated. The intervention of Black Monday on October 19 put a stop to all that and sent nine months of planning down the drain.

Yesterday will be memorable for a much better reason — he gets £15 million from the sale of Racing Green, the home shopping company he set up after eventually selling Blazer for £5.4 million. He says he has now had enough of clothes retailing and sees himself settling up in restaurants or publishing. Will he make fortune number three?

Waist not

CUTTING a fine figure around town is Brian Taylor, ebullient chief executive of Wandle Stores, the parachutes and inflatable boats company. He has taken a leaf out of Nigel Lawson's book and lost five stone on a crash diet. He looks much happier than the former Chancellor. Now tipping the scales at around 13½ stone, he is confident he will not pile on the pounds again, despite his taste for the finer things in life. That may be just as well, for having lost almost 12 inches around his waist he has thrown out an entire wardrobe of clothes.



"Harvey Nichols? You can't miss it — take the A1 to Pontefract then the M62 for Leeds"

Sporting chance

AN insurance policy was launched yesterday for executives who pay huge membership fees to exclusive sports and health clubs. The policy will pay subscription fees if you are injured and unable to use the facilities, or if you are unemployed. The policy is the idea of Louwens Lambert, the insurance broker, after one of its development managers, Scott Ingham, suffered a back injury that put him out of action for a couple of months.

A CABBIE waiting outside the newly opened OYO Tower restaurant was asked who he was waiting for. The reply may come as a surprise for the chairman of English Heritage: "Dunno exactly mate, some woman called Jocelyn Stevens."

Tall order

BUSINESS folk in Harrogate this week for the annual Institute of Personnel and Development annual conference are in for a shock — a one-man show called Tall, Dark, Handsome and Nn 1 that aims to provoke executives into thinking about the environmental, social and ethical challenges of business.

EMPLOYERS would be forgiven for a sudden jump in blood pressure over a new report on stress at work. Announcing the study, the Institute of Personnel and Development said that stress-related illness cost UK employers £79 billion. The figure should have been £7 billion to £8 billion.



Early warning: the Chancellor had a preview of the CBI's latest Industrial Trends survey before his weekend Budget strategy session

Clarke's dilemma: cut tax for votes or appease industry?

Business leaders at the Confederation of British Industry will today slot into place a key piece of Kenneth Clarke's Budget jigsaw when for the final time before the Chancellor takes out his red box, they reveal the state of British business. CBI leaders are expected, in their last quarterly Industrial Trends survey before the Budget, to be cautiously optimistic about the state of industry and the economy. The survey is expected to show confidence with output and orders rising.

Philip Bassett explains why the Chancellor faces a difficult Budget decision next month

The CBI's survey looks generally more guarded than those from other business bodies, such as the Institute of Directors, British Chambers of Commerce, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Building Employers' Confederation.

Taken together, the surveys show relative economic buoyancy, though couched with caution, and a considerable hope, that things will improve further. CBI leaders, for instance, will make it clear today that they believe that growth in the economy is there, is steady and is sustainable — providing the Government takes no risks with it in the Budget. Chambers of Commerce also emphasise the steadiness of growth, and suggest too that the manufacturing sector in particular is returning to levels of confidence not seen for 18 months or more. Company directors, as measured by the IOD's much-improved survey, see the outlook as positive, with recovery spreading, but are concerned that weaknesses in the UK's overseas markets are beginning to have an adverse impact on UK exporters. Sectorally, the engineering industry is showing improvement, though EEF leaders believe that while growth will continue, it will be at a slower pace. And in construction, as charted by the BEC's study, the pick-up in the housing market is finally feeding through to building firms after what has been for that industry a double-dip recession so far in the 1990s.

Such trends are leading to a considerable commonality of purpose across industry about what the Chancellor

should then do in the Budget, which CBI leaders are likely to reflect this morning when they publish in full the detailed results of their own survey: a steady Budget for growth, with steps to improve the public finances — and little, if any at all, room for tax cuts.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said: "Our key messages are clear. For business, the priorities are stability, investment and continued progress in reducing public borrowing." Arguing that the state of the public finances calls for "caution", he says: "The shortfall of corporation tax and VAT receipts is a major factor. If this shortfall proves permanent, the scope for planned tax cuts must reduce accordingly."

Dorlan Peters, deputy Director-General of the Chambers of Commerce Association, agrees. "The Chancellor and the Bank of England must leave interest rates and taxes alone. Further reductions could cause undue stimulus to the economy, while any increase could threaten the delicate balance of this recovery and hurt export markets," he said. So given where industry is within the economy, what does industry want from the Chancellor? Caution is the watchword.

In line with the cautious Budget business is looking for, Treasury and Bank of England officials want the Chancellor to opt for prudence — in part because of the poor state of the public finances, but also because, like business, they do not believe that the

economy, already moving up, needs any further stimulation. Tax cuts will be the key issue. Privately, business recognises that they are politically inevitable, though cuts in taxes — and especially any reductions in personal taxation — virtually define the economic impudence business does not want to see. For business, how few cuts in taxes the Chancellor can get away with is likely to be the measure of how successful the Budget will be.

Business leaders have all but declared that the state of the public finances are such that the Chancellor has, in fact, no room at all for tax cuts. To disguise the point, and to give the impression at least that they are cutting with the grain, most industry leaders propose at least some cuts in taxes — but they are virtually uniform in suggesting cuts in business taxation, and not just for self-interest, but because they are concerned that any cuts in personal taxes will damage the tax take still further and could add to inflationary pressures by an over-stimulation of demand.

But they privately recognise that what they claim to be the proposals that Britain needs economically are unlikely to be politically sufficient. In that, the judgment of business leaders may be shrewd: by sticking closely to economic requirements, industry leaders are clearly not tying themselves too obviously to the Conservative Party's political fortunes.

If Labour is voted in at the general election, on the Budget at least, business will have clean hands, having argued a case that manifestly is not enough for the Conservatives' re-election. So if the Chancellor does go beyond the strict prudence business wants to see from the Budget, business leaders may regret it — but they know that it might improve the Conservatives' re-election prospects, which they would welcome, or, at the very least, it might allow business to reap some benefit if the political wind changes.



JANET BUSH

Straws in the electoral wind

The apparent slump in Labour's opinion poll lead reported in the weekend press has jolted conventional wisdom. Although the Prime Minister's shirt-sleeved, Honest John appeal to the electorate went down well in Bournemouth, few guessed that it would go very far in counteracting the latest dollup of sleaze and the threat from the Referendum Party.

And yet the latest NOP survey showed Labour's lead down from 23 points a fortnight ago to 14 points, the lowest reported by this particular survey of voter intentions for three years. The 23-point lead came in the NOP poll on October 3, just after Tony Blair's widely praised speech in Blackpool and before a Conservative conference that turned out to be surprisingly trouble-free. Taking out this poll, all other recent adjusted polls have given Labour a lead of between 14 points and 19 points.

Still, there does appear to have been a small, but genuine, improvement in the Government's poll position. The NOP reading may be the first sign that an improving economy is finally translating into greater popularity. It so, Kenneth Clarke stands vindicated. He has persistently argued that a return of consumer confidence will prove the Government's best electoral friend. And he has counselled, never more strongly than in Bournemouth, against cosmetic tax cuts.

The business of interpreting opinion polls is hazardous but research suggests that the Chancellor is pursuing the best strategy. Only today, Simon Price of Oxford Economic Forecasting, writes that the public's perception of a party's economic competence matters greatly in determining popularity but also that there is no mileage for "extremely unpopular" governments in throwing away what vestiges of economic competence they have purely to win an election. "The damage is too large to undo," he says. "So they may as well act responsibly."

The Government has long experienced a disheartening disjunction between the performance of the economy and its standing in opinion

polls but there has been good reason for this. According to David Sanders, professor of government at Essex University, the Conservative reputation for economic competence, which had never faltered since 1979, was shattered by the ERM crisis of 1992.

The overnight destruction of the main plank of the Government's economic policy only compounded the distrust already engendered by ministerial claims of recovery long before it could be felt, and the U-turn on tax. It has since been extraordinarily difficult for the Government to recover its reputation as economic manager but Mr Clarke's sensible and gimmick-free stewardship may now be starting to help.

Along with the ERM effect, another theory explaining the breakdown of the link between Conservatism and economic confidence, put forward by Mike Dicks of Lehman Brothers, is negative equity. The Government's standing ought to improve on both counts. The number of households blighted by negative equity has dropped below 500,000 for the first time since 1990, according to the Woolwich Building Society.

And the ERM effect may have faded finally from people's perceptions. Mr Dicks believes the effect of major political events, which seem to have caused permanent shifts in the political parties' standings, probably fades over time. So the hugely positive effect of Tony Blair's assumption of the Labour leadership may be waning but so, too, is the ERM negative for the Government.

None of the above should send punters running to their local betting shops to put money on a Conservative victory next spring. For one thing, if economic management is the issue it is difficult to find any water, blue or red, between Mr Clarke and Gordon Brown. For another, although the economy is important, it is not the only reason why people vote the way they do. A liking for Tony Blair's new society rhetoric, a dislike for sleaze, a simple desire for change all count in the electoral balance.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

Percentage balance of companies								
1990	Q1	-29	Q2	-22	Q3	-27	Q4	-47
1991	Q1	-51	Q2	-17	Q3	-26	Q4	2
1992	Q1	-24	Q2	8	Q3	-9	Q4	-23
1993	Q1	11	Q2	31	Q3	11	Q4	1
1994	Q1	27	Q2	13	Q3	11	Q4	18
1995	Q1	17	Q2	13	Q3	-3	Q4	-11
1996	Q1	-6	Q2	-3	Q3	B		

Source: CBI

BUSINESS LETTERS

Fresh perspective on fat-cat rewards

From Mr Denis Harvey-Kelly, Sir, It is fine the fact that industry were put in proper perspective. Anyone who makes money for their shareholders should be properly rewarded. It is the measurement that needs looking at more closely. The share price is a very poor yardstick. In any case share options create share dilution. Might I suggest that an executive's incentive should not exceed any increase in the dividend to shareholders, and that any increase that reduces the cover of the dividend should not be counted. The only loophole left is the "jiggling" of the accounts. This is something that the auditors should be made accountable for.

No method is entirely satisfactory, but at least something on these lines ensures that no executive on an incentive can take out more from the company in which he works than his shareholders. Yours faithfully, DENIS HARVEY-KELLY, Corby House, Sherborne, Dorset.

The system leads to poor non-executive directors

From Mr Clive Holton Sir, The recent commentary on seemingly excessive pay arrangements and termination settlements can, in my view, often be placed at the door of the appointment system for non-executive directors. A worrying trend is the large number of executive directors who are being appointed as non-executive directors of large corporations. The reason that is often given is that current experience "in the kitchen" is of better value to a board than independence and objectivity. The often-quoted disadvantages of such an appointment are those of self-interest and the setting of pay contracts by their own kind. I have, from my own professional experience, an equally important disadvantage. Today's non-executive appointment demands at least three days per month of time in a large company, and this cannot only be comprised of the hours reading papers at a weekend. How can busy executive directors of leading plc devote such time and attention

Why Tottenham shares sagged

From Mr John Godfrey Sir, Tempus (October 11) seems surprised that Tottenham Hotspur's share price is depressed. Perhaps he doesn't realise that financial success relies upon more than avoiding relegation. TV revenues are dependent to a large degree on the success of the team; and the biggest windfalls come to those who do well in European competitions. These, though, are only open to teams that win trophies or achieve high league placings. At present, Tottenham looks unlikely to meet these criteria. Much has been said about the chairman's reluctance to invest in the football team, but we should not be surprised by this. He has done very nicely by avoiding competition with the "top end" of the market — a strategy that has worked so well for his other vehicle — Amstrad. Yours faithfully, JOHN GODFREY, 29 Melsted Road, Boxmoor, Hertel Hempstead, Herts.

Bribery by officials treated as corruption

From Mr Paul Vevers Sir, Jason Nisse's article under the headline "Bribe-seeking officials escape prosecution" (The Times, October 14) gives the impression that the Audit Commission regards attempts by government officials to pressurise people into paying bribes as maladministration rather than corruption. This is not the case. He was quoting from a letter from Derek Purdy, an Audit Commission official, about the lack

Scepticism over Gas computer

From David H. Walton Sir, So British Gas have a record of the phone calls they receive, and this is carefully logged on their computer. Is this the famous computer they use to prepare their bills? Yours faithfully, DAVID H. WALTON, 10 St Guthac's Close, Crowland, Peterborough.

THE TIMES

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http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES

Ageism fears abound at both ends of spectrum

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

OLDER workers and those at the start of their careers should be protected by legislation to outlaw age discrimination, according to a nationwide survey of employers.

In what is claimed to be the first comprehensive look into the views of workers as opposed to bosses, an overwhelming majority — more than 92 per cent — said it was ability rather than age which counted in the workplace. Nearly 80 per cent said that there should be laws to protect

workers from age prejudice, although 30 per cent were pessimistic that such laws would be effective. More than three quarters of those questioned said age limits should be banned from job advertisements.

The survey by Austin Knight, the recruitment and communication consultancy, and The Employers Forum on Age spoke to workers from employers including Allied Distillers, the Bank of England, Marks & Spencer, Nationwide Building Society and a selection of county councils.

Research by Austin Knight earlier this year into employment opportuni-

ties revealed a high proportion of workers claiming they had been the victims of age discrimination. The survey published today also finds substantial numbers of people claiming age prejudice at both ends of the age spectrum. More than half said they had been thought of as too young.

Generally, older workers were found to be more open to change and more willing to learn new skills than the perception held by some employers and colleagues. The study found that older people do not take more time off work than their younger counterparts, although those who

think they do are most likely to be young employees. Similarly it was indicated that managing older staff can be seen as problematic for younger staff.

Anne Riley, chief executive of Austin Knight, said the extent of age discrimination at work has been largely underestimated because workers are reluctant to complain. One in six employees who had experienced ageism had moved from that company, about two thirds took no action and about a sixth made an informal complaint. Ms Riley said: "It appears that there is a quiet-life

mentality present in many workers that has kept hidden the depth and extent of age discrimination."

Ruth Jarratt, development director of the Employers Forum on Age, said the study should make employers review their attitude to age. She said: "One of the most striking points that emerges from this survey is the strong belief that people should be recruited on merit alone, and yet it is obvious that the workplace abounds in misconceptions about both young and older people's abilities."

Pennington, page 29

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Barclays confirms talks with Morgan

BARCLAYS BANK yesterday confirmed that it is in discussions with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, regarding possible cooperation in the field of global custody. Barclays said a further announcement would be made "at a later date." It is believed Barclays may sell its global custody business, which handles up to £200 billion worth of funds, to Morgan Stanley. The acquisition would make Morgan Stanley one of the largest custodians in the world, in a business that is rapidly consolidating.

Global custody has expanded from safekeeping of shares and bonds to include investment accounting, performance measurement and securities lending. The sector suffers from thin operating margins and high compliance costs and requires significant expenditure on new technology. Martin Taylor, Barclays chief executive, is reported to have decided it should no longer form part of the core business.

Weir power play

WEIR GROUP, the engineering company based in Scotland, has won orders worth more than £10 million to supply specialist pumping equipment to the power generation industry in the Pacific Rim. Three of the four contracts were placed by power contractors based in America, Japan and Germany. Under the terms of the deals, Weir will manufacture a range of equipment for various applications, including boiler feed, condensate extraction and auxiliary feed for power plants in South Korea, China and Thailand.

Angerstein eyes Coffey

ANGERSTEIN Underwriting Trust, the Lloyd's of London agency, is considering the acquisition of P B Coffey, managing agent for Lloyd's Marine Syndicate 902, it was announced yesterday. The Coffey syndicate, established in 1976, has an unbroken record of profits, and the average return over the last five years has been 10.91 per cent. The syndicate has underwriting capacity of £37.5 million for the 1996 account and writes a broad spread of marine business, with strong interests in cargo, hull, liabilities and excess of loss.

Vodafone landmark

VODAFONE, the mobile phone network operator, has signed the millionth subscriber to its digital network. Chris Gent, currently Vodafone's managing director and chief executive designate, said the company had extended the lead over its nearest rival to 300,000 subscribers by the end of September, from a lead of just 17,000 in January. Vodafone has a total subscriber base of more than 2.65 million, which included more than 1.6 million on its analogue network.

Langdons buys rival

LANGDONS FOODS, the coffee and tea merchant, has acquired Café D'Or, a rival London coffee roaster, for £320,000. Langdons proposes to close the company's operations at Bow, east London, and move production to its own headquarters in Woolwich. Café D'Or supplies 300 independent delicatessens, mostly in the South East. Yesterday Langdons reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £76,000 from £37,000 in the half-year to June. Earnings were 0.06p a share (0.04p). A maiden dividend of 0.04p is proposed.

Premier bid rejected

PREMIER OIL, the UK energy company, has had its AS100 million (about £50 million) takeover bid for Australia's Discovery Petroleum rejected by the Discovery board. Charles Jamieson, chief executive of Premier Oil, said that Discovery had commissioned a third-party valuation of their company, which came up with a value of between 77 cents and 95 cents per share, compared with Premier's offer of 70 cents. Mr Jamieson said Premier was now considering its options. Premier's offer remains open until November 11.

Brandon Hire hitch

SHARES of Brandon Hire fell 23½p to 94p after the tool and catering equipment hire group warned investors that operating profits would not match earlier expectations. The warning coincided with the announcement of the sale of JSL Fasteners in a £2 million deal that will be used to reduce group borrowings. Brian Nathan, chairman of Brandon Hire, said margins in the tool hire division had not yet improved to the same level as the catering division. In addition, the company had incurred reorganisation costs of £350,000.

Arcon mine creates jobs

ARCON INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES is to create 125 jobs as it prepares for full production at its new lead and zinc mine. Arcon, based in Dublin, said most of the jobs at the mine in Galway, County Kilkenny, would be recruited locally from surrounding counties. Full production from Ireland's first zinc and lead mine in more than 20 years is due to start at the beginning of next year. Almost 45 per cent of Arcon is owned by Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Heinz food group and Independent Newspapers, and his family.

SAS plans SAA alliance

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines System (SAS) plans to form an alliance with South African Airways (SAA) to gain a foothold on the African continent. SAS has existing strategic partnerships with Lufthansa, United Airlines, Thai Airways International and Air Canada. Deregulation has brought the Scandinavian carrier competition on short-haul European services and some domestic routes, notably from British Airways Express and Virgin Express. Last month, Virgin announced a code-sharing agreement with South Africa's Sun Air.

Return to profit fails to shake doubts over IBM's recovery

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

IBM, the computer group, reported better than expected profits for the third quarter of this year after a hefty loss at the same time last year, but Wall Street remains cautious about the company's long-term recovery.

IBM turned in profits of \$1.3 billion, up from a \$500 million loss in the third quarter of 1995. When the purchase of Lotus Notes, the networking software company, is stripped out of last year's figure, IBM's results were flat. However, this still compares favourably with the 22 per cent fall in profits during the second quarter. Although revenues in the US, Asia and Latin America increased 8 per cent to \$18.1 billion, revenues from the troubled European operation did not rise.

"This was a very good quarter," said Louis Gerstner, chairman. Mr Gerstner has been working to turn the company around after huge losses two years ago threw a question mark over its future. He said one of the highlights had been sales of networking hardware and software, which has become a key part of IBM's recovery strategy.

IBM's results have become a major event on Wall Street. Twice this year they have caused major stock market moves. In April the company's chief financial officer, Richard Thoman, gave a pessimistic trading forecast which sent IBM shares tumbling and caused a collapse in the computer sector. This, in turn, triggered a decline across the whole market during the sum-

mer. In July, however, he gave an upbeat forecast which pushed up IBM shares dramatically and helped a stock market recovery.

Doubts persist over the solidity of IBM's recovery because its recent good performance has been based on heavy sales of a new generation of mainframe computers and large computer operating contracts.

However, many analysts doubt that mainframes will continue to sell well as businesses turn to the Internet and internal networking systems. Major customers, such as Ford, the car manufacturer, are ending their reliance on mainframes and are switching to more flexible systems. Meanwhile, IBM is only breaking even in its personal computer business.

The group's shares rose by nearly \$3 yesterday to \$132.5, its highest level for five years and more than three times the low of \$40 in 1992. Mr Gerstner has engineered the recovery by cutting costs, cutting the workforce by tens of thousands and introducing the new range of mainframe computers.

The group is in no immediate financial trouble because its cashflow, even after its large capital spending, is a healthy \$9 billion a year. Nevertheless, the shares remain extremely volatile because of investor concern that Mr Gerstner's strategy may not be enough to cope with rapid changes in the computer industry.



Louis Gerstner has cut costs and jobs and introduced the new mainframe computers

Benchmark index as aid for small businesses

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SMALL BUSINESSES were urged yesterday to sharpen their performances by comparing themselves with each other through a nationwide network set up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Richard Page, Minister for Small Business, launched the UK Benchmarking Index designed for small companies as "a simple computer-based system that, through a series of questions, will allow a huge range of different types of small firm to compare performance in key areas like finance, management and operations, with other companies in their sector or region."

With more than 90 per cent of companies comprising 20 employees or fewer, Mr Page said: "These small operations need to be just as skilled at finance, marketing, innovation, production and management as big multinationals."

The DTI believes that with the use of the index small companies will be able to work more effectively with Business Links, the support scheme for business. The benchmarking scheme has been designed in conjunction with Business Links and the training and enterprise councils (Tecs).

Mr Page said: "Trade associations also have an important role to play. As well as being a strong national voice for their members they can work with them to improve the competitiveness of their sector. Benchmarking can provide a good starting point for such activities."

New telecom licences imminent

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FIRST licences for new companies in the international telecoms market are planned for the end of this year, the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday.

The DTI issued a new draft form of the licence for comments before the final version is awarded to companies who want to offer international services over their own facilities. The Government published a consultation paper on liberalising the provision of international services over a company's own facilities in March. Forty-six companies have applied for the international facilities licences.

Ian Taylor, Science and Technology Minister, said: "Competition will reduce prices for UK consumers, encourage more inward investment and boost our position as Europe's leading telecoms hub."

Mr Taylor said the Government wanted a regulatory regime that cuts costs to industry but allows OfTel, the regulator, to clamp down on anti-competitive operations.

Hillsdown to buy in rest of Strong

By FRASER NELSON

HILLSDOWN HOLOINGS, the foods conglomerate, has agreed to spend £4.3 million on buying the shares that it does not already own of Strong & Fisher, the USM-quoted animal by-products producer.

The deal will end Strong & Fisher's 28 years as an independently quoted company. It values the shares at 21p, compared with Friday's closing price of 12½p, and the firm at £36 million. Hillsdown has controlled the company since 1990, when it gained 70 per cent of its shares in a rescue package. Before yesterday's offer to buy from minority shareholders, Hillsdown had lifted its stake to 90.2 per cent. Strong & Fisher, which used to produce the offal-based cattle feed suspected of spreading "mad cow" disease, has seen mixed fortunes from the BSE crisis. The feed has been banned, but the leather division has enjoyed a drop in raw material prices and its rendering division has benefited from heavy cull orders.

A sharp drop in overseas demand pushed the leather division into a loss in August. The situation has recovered and its pre-tax profits for 1996 are expected to be slightly above last year's £3.31 million.

Shares in Conrad suspended

SHARES in Conrad, the sports company that recently lost its bid for Leeds United FC, were suspended at a three-year high of 64½p yesterday, as it prepared to announce a £12 million takeover offer for Sheffield United (Fraser Nelson writes).

Conrad is expected to confirm a reverse bid either today or tomorrow, ending months of City speculation.

It is understood to have been in discussion with three other football teams which approached the company after it lost to Caspian in last July's bid for Leeds United. Its shares are expected to start trading again next month.

NHL pays £44m for mortgage portfolio

By CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONAL Home Loans, the centralised lender, has bought a portfolio of mortgages from a UK bank for £44 million.

The price represents a discount on the assets of the mortgage book, which are believed to be in the region of £50 million. The interest rate on the 1,000 mortgages which comprise the loan portfolio is between 7 per cent and 11.5 per cent. Nick Keen, NHL finance director, said: "We will be reviewing the rates paid by all the borrowers. The rates will be set according to the particular circumstances."

He added that the book contained performing and non-performing loans. NHL has about 25,000 borrowers who pay between 6.5 per cent and 11.5 per cent interest on their mortgages. NHL has been strongly criticised for keeping the rates for its borrowers high in spite of the overall drop in interest rates.

Mr Keen said the centralised lender would continue to look out for mortgage books which represented value for money. "We are looking for small books at the right price," he said. The purchase is NHL's third since its restructuring and rights issue last year. NHL refused to identify the bank from which the portfolio had come.

Eurotunnel plans to make 650 redundant

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel tunnel operator, will today tell employees that 650 jobs must go. About 300 are likely to be lost in the UK, with the remainder in France (Christine Buckley writes).

The job cuts are part of an extensive clampdown on costs already announced as the group, which is in talks to restructure its £9.1 billion bank debt, tries to move into profit. The company has previously announced the closure of offices in London and Paris to concentrate operations in Folkestone and Calais. Details of the cuts will be announced in separate meetings with the UK and French company works councils by Georges-Christian Chazot, Eurotunnel's operational managing director. The cuts are expected to be implemented over the next year to 14 months and will largely affect short-term contract workers and consultants. But it is likely that full-time Eurotunnel staff will also be affected. The company said yesterday it would try to avoid compulsory redundancies.

Eurotunnel plans to hold an extraordinary shareholders meeting by April next year to approve the restructuring, which will be backed by the audited accounts for 1996. Its bankers are considering a debt-for-equity swap. Cash generation from operations is said by the company to be crucial to its future under the restructuring.

Last week it reworked its operations to separate Le Shuttle and Railway Services as two businesses, concentrating respectively on the road and rail users of the Channel Tunnel.

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Another record close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Alkermes	10.50	0.00	10.50
Beck's	10.50	0.00	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	10.50
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	10.50
Reckitt Benckiser	10.50	0.00	10.50
Schlitz	10.50	0.00	10.50
Tenneco	10.50	0.00	10.50
United Breweries	10.50	0.00	10.50
Wolfsberg	10.50	0.00	10.50

BANKS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Bank of America	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Montreal	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Scotland	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of South Africa	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Tokyo	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Victoria	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of West	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Western Australia	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Western Australia	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Western Australia	10.50	0.00	10.50
Bank of Western Australia	10.50	0.00	10.50

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Beck's	10.50	0.00	10.50
Carlsberg	10.50	0.00	10.50
Heineken	10.50	0.00	10.50
Interbrew	10.50	0.00	10.50
Kaiser	10.50	0.00	10.50
Miller	10.50	0.00	10.50
Orkla	10.50	0.00	10.50
Reckitt Benckiser	10.50	0.00	10.50
Schlitz	10.50	0.00	10.50
Tenneco	10.50	0.00	10.50
United Breweries	10.50	0.00	10.50
Wolfsberg	10.50	0.00	10.50

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Bechtel	10.50	0.00	10.50
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BUILDING MATERIALS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Bechtel	10.50	0.00	10.50
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CHEMICALS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Bechtel	10.50	0.00	10.50
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DISTRIBUTORS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

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ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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HEALTHCARE

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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INSURANCE

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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LEISURE & HOTELS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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MINING

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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PROPERTY

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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TEXTILES & APPAREL

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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TRANSPORT

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
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RETAILERS FOOD

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Bechtel	10.50	0.00	10.50
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RETAILERS GENERAL

Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
Bechtel	10.50	0.00	10.50

THE MEDWAY TOWNS

FOCUS

Della Mason introduces a three-page report on the Medway Towns' recovery

Kent revival onstream

About half a million people who live or work in the Medway Towns, Kent, have good reason to celebrate as the whole area — the towns of Rochester, Gillingham, Chatham, Rainham and Strood — sees the biggest boost of commercial investment in their lifetime.

New roads and a new tunnel — together with a £180 million project — plus state-of-the-art offices, a university and a £160 million housing development on St Mary's Island, are complete or under way. They have created a feeling of optimism in this area as the River Medway, home to one sixth of the population of Kent, is just one hour from London, this commuter belt has felt the chilly blast of recession more fiercely than most parts of Britain. It was triggered by the closure of Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard in 1984, the biggest single employer of skilled workers in the area, with the loss of 7,000 jobs. The knock-on effect was immense. Unemployment reached 12 per cent at its height in January 1993.

Recovery is now evident throughout the area. This year the Princess Royal opened the new £80 million Medway Tunnel, a dual carriageway under the Medway. The £100 million Medway Towns Northern Relief Road, which links into the tunnel and

directly onto the M2, providing speedy access to the M25, London, the Channel Tunnel and the Continent, will be completed in early 1999. Travel time to the motorway will drop from one hour to 10 minutes.

English Partnerships, the Government's urban regeneration agency, Thamesport container terminal and Rochester upon Medway City Council financed a £21 million loan to get the project started. The Rochester Bridge Trust and English Partnerships staked part of the investment for the new tunnel, and the Government has now matched the offer and given its financial commitment to the schemes, including repayment of the loan. As a result Kent County Council has become the provider of one of the largest transport projects in the UK.

About 4,000 businesses are located in the area, ranging from avionics at Rochester to financial company headquarters in Chatham and foreign investment in manufacturing in Gillingham.

Business parks in the Medway Towns include the Gillingham Business Park which has won awards for its design and upkeep.

The Medway City Estate, at one end of the new Medway Tunnel, has unique waterside facilities and 2,000 employees

on site. It is ripe for expansion.

The former Chatham dockyard covered 550 acres of prime land. On closure the Government divided it into three, the first being 80 acres of dockyard history and buildings, now the Historic Dockyard. The next 350 acres was scheduled for redevelopment by English Partnerships. Its remit was to prepare the site for redevelopment by providing and marketing opportunities for companies to build new homes, offices, a marina, shops and leisure buildings, all within a masterplan.

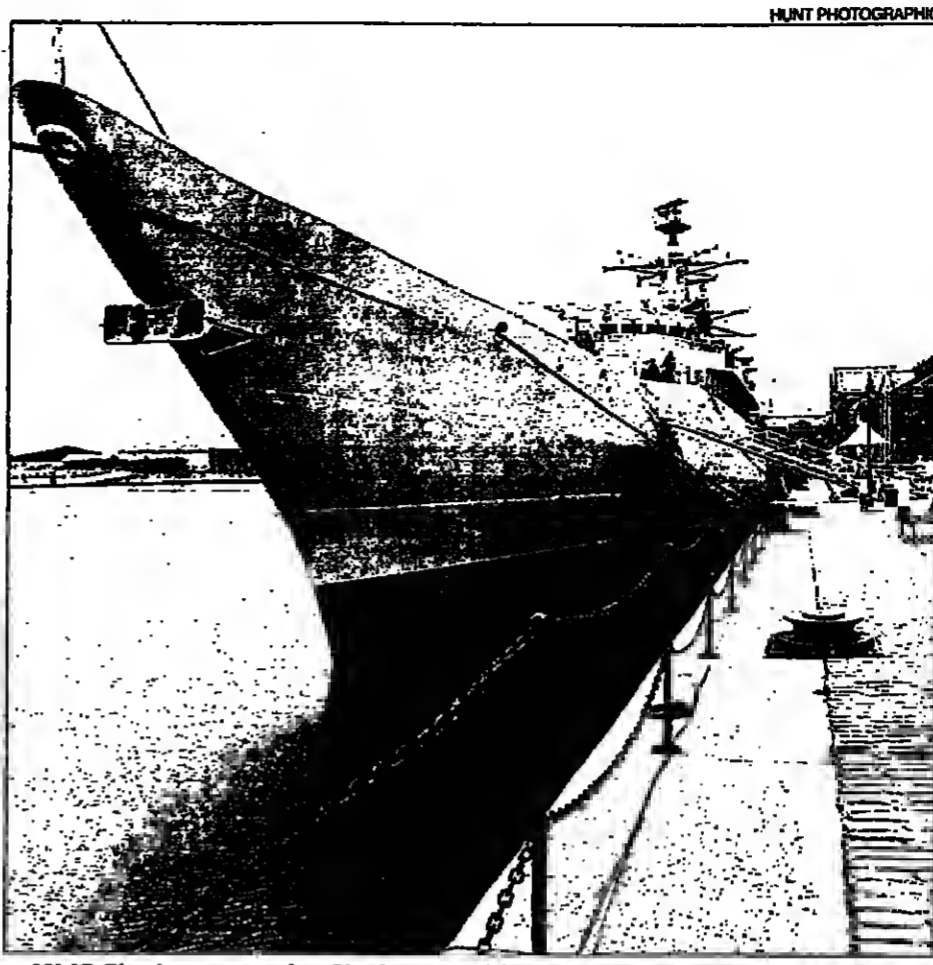
The third area, the waterside and docks at Chatham, was acquired by Medway Ports, which became part of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, Liverpool, in October 1993.

Twelve years after the dockyard closure, regeneration is taking shape.

Stephen Pritchard of BBP Associates, managing the Chatham Maritime project for English Partnerships, says: "We are delighted that the results are beginning to be seen and appreciated."

"We are regenerating a huge area. When companies look at this now for the first time they are singing a far different tune from seven years ago."

Today's unemployment figures stand at 7.9 per cent and continue to fall as business moves back into the area.



HMS Chatham moored at Chatham Maritime, on the site of the navy dockyards

Island offers life on the river

ST MARY'S ISLAND, Chatham Maritime, a joint venture by English Partnerships and Countryside Properties, is designed to create a complete "island community" on 150 acres.

The first phase of building is almost complete on what were mudflats in the River Medway, once part of the Chatham Royal Naval base. There are single apartments, two and three-bedroom houses, and three and four-bedroom detached houses.

Demand for property on the island, which is lapped by the tides of the Medway estuary and encircled by a riverside walk, has exceeded expectations. The first phase of 47 houses, priced from £44,950 to £79,950 and £180,000, attracted buyers quickly. This has brought forward the whole building programme of 201 properties.

Independent architects are being invited to submit plans for the island school, community hall, a small retail development and a doctor's surgery.

Part of the £160 million project will have riverside houses and overlook a marina. There are 50 acres of parkland in the centre of the island, and a security system.

The next stage to be planned will be a fisherman's village, with a traditional public house at the ancient jetty. Builders from abroad, including one Finnish company, are being invited to bring their own designs.

Richard Moore, the project manager, says: "People of all ages are viewing this development with great excitement. It is unique. Much thought and care is going into the scheme to make it a superb place to live and to enjoy the river."

The site manager, John Sutton, added: "It is an island where families will feel secure and able to relax." The island already has a new £80 million access tunnel.

DELLA MASON

A fitting home for naval history

John Young explores the award-winning maritime museum based at Chatham's Royal Dockyard



Chatham dockyard, once the cradle for the Fleet, now guards the Navy's treasures including a Victorian naval sloop

The Ministry of Defence has been strongly criticised lately for its alleged insensitivity in disposing of properties that have become surplus to its needs. But its decision in 1984 to hand over the historic core of the great Royal Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, 80 acres of splendid and evocative buildings, many classed as ancient monuments, to a charitable trust to be conserved and managed as a museum, could only have been applauded.

It would have been a tragedy if it had done anything else. For not only is the dockyard at the heart of more than four centuries of naval history, but it also provides a superbly spacious site for the display of an ever-growing collection of maritime treasures which attracts more than 120,000 visitors a year and provides a home for nearly 100 businesses, which employ some 325 people.

In about 1570, the building of a mast pond, storehouses and a forge at Chatham placed it in the forefront of the great age of Elizabethan naval expansion. A decade later, the Queen held a reception for visiting foreign dignitaries, no doubt in order to impress upon them that, as a maritime power, Britain meant business.

Among Chatham's subsequent achievements were the launch of the *Revenge*, celebrated in Tennyson's poem; the "fighting" *Temeraire*, the subject of Turner's most famous painting; and *HMS Victory*, Nelson's flagship in 1805. The "iron-clad" *Achilles*, then the world's largest ship, was launched in 1863. In wartime (boom) and peacetime (recession) the dockyard

built everything from battleships to nuclear submarines, and from the first experimental catamaran to a pleasure yacht for the Tsar, Peter the Great.

When ships limped home from war, it repaired and relaunched them. Among them were the cruiser *HMS Ajax*, heroine of the Battle of the River Plate, and *HMS Kelly*, the destroyer made famous by her commander Lord Mountbatten.

The trust was initially funded by the Government in a one-off payment of £11.35 million, which has since been supplemented by grants from the Department of National Heritage, charitable donations, rents from commercial tenants and the conversion and sale of some Georgian

buildings for residential use. In 1992, it received the British Tourist Authority's Come to Britain special award for outstanding enterprise.

One of the most publicised attractions of the museum is the Ropery, built to supply the needs of sailing ships which needed some 20 miles of rope for their rigging alone and lines long enough to anchor in 40 fathoms. Ropes are still produced by traditional methods for commercial use, and regular demonstrations are held in a building nearly a quarter of a mile long.

In the same category is the "sail and colour loft", where sails and flags are still produced on a commercial basis. Across the road is *HMS Gannet*, the last surviving Victorian naval sloop, now

being restored for the Maritime Trust. Last May saw the opening of a collection of historic lifeboats, and *HMS Ocelot*, the last submarine built in Chatham, will shortly have a new home in the dockyard.

Perhaps the most enjoyable display is the Wooden Walls gallery in the former Mast House and Mould Loft describes the building of an 18th-century warship as if a young apprentice is telling the story. When funding is available, a parallel exhibition will be installed to describe the building of a later iron vessel when funds permit.

There is also a detailed model of *HMS Victory* which had been built in 1941 for a Hollywood film about Lady Hamilton. The model was donated by the United States Naval Training Centre in San Diego, California. In a way, it seems a pity that the real thing should be in Portsmouth.

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Founded in 1970, the Cliffe Group of Companies has been established on the Medway City Estate since the mid 1980's

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Down by the riverside: Chatham has begun to transform itself from a "squaddy town" into a place where white-collar businesses are flourishing

Chatham spreads its wings

What happened to the town when the great Royal Dockyard closed down? John Young reports

On March 30, 1984, after more than four centuries of building and servicing Britain's Navy, the great Royal Dockyard in Chatham closed its gates for the last time. In an already economically depressed region — at least by the standards of southeast England — the loss of 7,000 jobs in the dockyard itself and hundreds more among the companies which supplied it might have proved catastrophic. In fact it spawned a diversification which has both revived the economy and transformed the environment. Garrison towns are seldom places of beauty, and Chatham in its naval heyday was no exception. Across the river Rochester had its cathedral, its castle, its picturesque streets and Dickensian heritage, but Chatham was, in the words of John Day, chief executive of the Medway Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "a squaddy town", overwhelmingly dependent on the mili-

tary — Army as well as Navy — with mostly shabby streets and little to encourage inward investment. That so much has changed is a tribute both to the chamber and to the Medway Enterprise Agency which was established in the early 1980s. The early results were little short of spectacular: some 2,000 new firms set up in the area, and within months, all but some 1,500 former dockyard workers had found new jobs. But the boom of the late 1980s did not last. By the end of decade recession had struck, and all too many of the brave new enterprises succumbed. Larger firms in the area, such as Metal Box and Wingates, survived mainly unscathed, but GEC Avionics, like the rest of the defence industry, was hit by the "peace dividend" and has since been

forced to shed about half its 6,000-strong workforce. Many small firms which folded were located on the Medway City Estate, a conventional industrial estate. A more imaginative and better planned approach has been adopted on the Gillingham industrial park, home mostly to companies with more money to invest. It has already won awards for landscaping and the emphasis placed on visual amenities. Among the newcomers are three Japanese companies: a development attributed by David Neale, a board member of the chamber responsible for marketing, partly to the links formed by one Will Adams, a local man who was invited to Japan in the 1920s to advise on the modernisation of the Imperial Navy. Equally important to the area's economic revival has been Chatham Maritime, established by English Estates, a division of Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. It is home to about 20 shipping, transport and distribution companies, engaged notably in steel and timber products, and employs more than 200 people. There are one or two clouds on an otherwise generally bright horizon. One is the huge new Bluewater out-of-town shopping development in nearby Dartford, which, it is feared, could damage local retailers. Another is the failure to derive more advantages from the Channel Tunnel rail link: it had been hoped that the line would run further north and that Medway, rather than Ashford, would be chosen as the main interchange station in Kent. Another temporary grievance concerns the new road tunnel under the Medway. After years of pleading it has finally been built and opened, but for the moment it lacks the all-important access roads.

John Grigsby looks at the reluctant marriage of neighbours Rochester and Gillingham

Wedding wail from two cities

If there is a bureaucratic heaven, the marriage of the City of Rochester upon Medway with the borough of Gillingham was definitely not made there. Gillingham is being dragged protesting to the altar, to merge with Rochester on April 1, 1998, following Parliament's approval in July of the order creating the new authority of 200,000 people. It will also form a new Medway county, carved out of Kent. Despite their geographical proximity, Rochester and Gillingham are unlikely bedfellows. Almost all they have in common is Chatham dockyard: the historic docks are in Rochester's area and Chatham Maritime, with its associated business park, in Gillingham. Rochester is dominated by the great set piece of the Norman keep and Cathedral and cherishes its links with Charles Dickens. Gillingham is a town of neat terraced houses, the legacy of its growth in the mid-19th century as a dormitory for the Royal Navy Dockyard and the associated military establishments along the Medway. The changeover is complex: 38 groups of officers from the three councils involved are considering the changeover, and 80 per cent of the staff and functions will come from Kent County Council, which vigorously fought to keep the county intact. Matters are further complicated by Rochester's status as a city, which will have to appear in the title of the new authority if it is to be retained. A decision on the new authority's name and coat of arms will be taken after the shadow elections on April 1. And then there are politics. Gillingham is controlled by the Liberal



Rochester Cathedral is one of the main tourist attractions of the city

Democrats, while Rochester is staunchly Labour. The parliamentary seats are held by Conservatives, but there are few Tories on the two councils. Although all parties are pledged to make the new authority work, Bob Sayer, Liberal Democrat leader of Gillingham, says: "We are terribly disappointed. We do not have much in common. Most people in Gillingham regard Rochester as conservative with a small 'c', while we are much more visionary and we have a strong community spirit which will be swamped." Gillingham has set out aggressively to attract business. Japanese firms, including Fuji, have already moved to the area and 90 per cent of its business park is occupied. While Gillingham held on to its 3,500 council houses and prides itself on providing the homeless with temporary accommodation, Rochester sold its entire stock to a building society, the interest enabling it to avoid levying a district council tax for three years. John Shaw, Labour leader of Rochester, said the new authority would be more powerful, enabling it to develop the economy of the whole area which had been devastated by the closure of Chatham dockyard in the mid-Eighties. "Anything we have done, or Gillingham has done, since then has affected both areas," he said. "It has been monstrous really not to have a co-ordinated policy." Nevertheless, to many the decision of John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who was educated at King's School, Rochester, appears illogical. Kent will lose 5 per cent of its population, but 15 per cent of its budget. There is little popular support. Of those questioned for a MORI poll, 63 per cent in Gillingham and 53 per cent in Rochester opted for no change. Apart from the transitional costs, estimated by the commission to be £7.8 million-£11.2 million, the average Band D taxpayer in Kent is expected to pay an extra £23 a year, and residents of the two towns an average of £190 a year to cover the costs of the change. Many regard Kent as a well-run authority which has capitalised on its geographical position and spread the benefits to the whole county. Now some business quarters fear these policies will be jeopardised when Medway becomes its own little county.

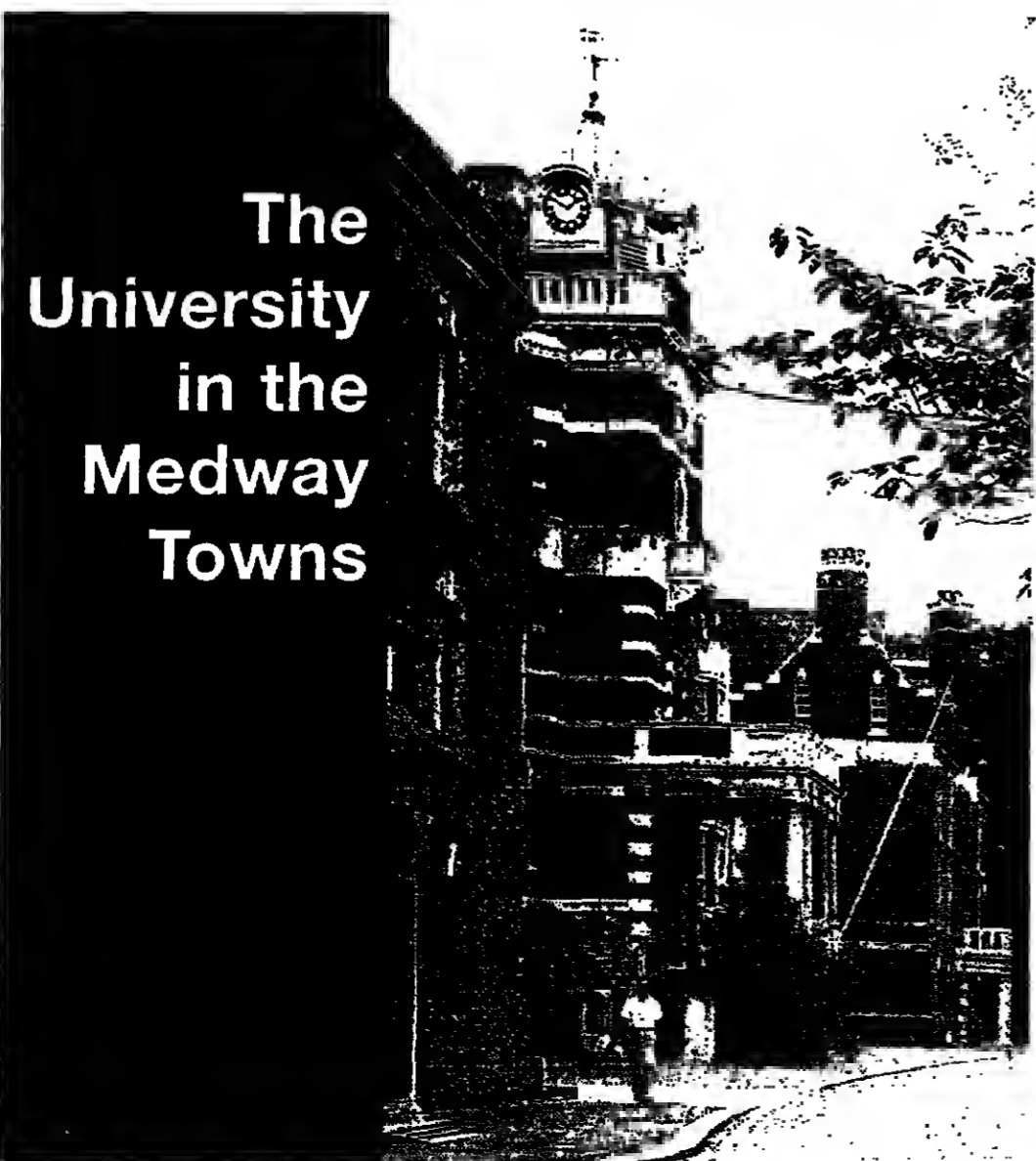
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The Dickens of a time

Della Mason on how the Medway towns celebrate their links with the great novelist

Medway life in the 1800s is chronicled in Charles Dickens' novel *Great Expectations*. Today Rochester High Street steps back into the past at least three times a year to take on the atmosphere created by the writer, who loved the town, who knew every cranny there and who wrote about and immortalised local people.

The annual celebration of the Dickensian Christmas (on December 7 and 8 this year), one of the main events on the tourist calendar, evokes the memory of the Victorian winters he described so vividly. The visitor can rub shoulders with Scrooge (falling the 1996 version in costume), Mr Pickwick or any one of the huge cast of characters that Dickens drew from real life. Local people insist that you can still meet those recognisable Dickens characters. Dickens at Rochester is an important part of the Medway Towns' tourism trade. In 1995, 437,000 visitors were attracted to places of interest including the Charles Dickens Centre, Rochester Castle, and Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Many thousands more flock from all over the world to the street extravaganzas: the Rochester Sweeps Festival (May), the Dickens Festival (May/June) and Dickensian Christmas with its bellingers, horse-drawn vehicles and music-hall shows.

Rochester is also hoping to



Many thousands flock from all over the world to the Dickens Festival

become known as a festival city. It has a sports festival, the summer Medway Arts Festival with top orchestras performing open-air, a Norman Rochester event, where everyone dresses in costume, and the Strood Steam Fair (traction engines, costumes not obligatory).

The principal events officer, Carl Madjitey, is a busy man. The summer Dickens Festival was launched 18 years ago, and has

grown year by year. The streets are full of crinolines, frock coats and costumes, and people travel hundreds of miles to tumble from cars, faces painted and wearing wigs: all part of the frivolity and fun.

These events, neither highbrow nor exacting, are sheer amusement. There is dancing in the street, laughter — and the children love it. Dickensian Christmas is a picture story, with real snow — yes, if

it does not snow, they bring it in — and ice for skaters. "It actually feels like Christmas here... with the snow and the twinkling lights and ladies in big fur-trimmed bonnets. It is very enticing," says Mr Madjitey. He adds that the whole idea of their Dickensian Christmas is to step back in time — and take things slowly.

"People say to me 'But what happens at the Christmas event?' In fact it is people doing their Christmas shopping, meeting friends and enjoying it all at a leisurely pace. We are so unused to that today. But once you do wind down, it really is fabulous. The carol singers from Rochester Cathedral come out to sing carols in the snow... It just feels like Christmas the way it should be, the way it was..."

With the High Street closed to cars, staff in bars and coffee shops are in white caps and aprons for most of the year. Dickens would have felt at ease here. He lived at Gads Hill Place, two miles from Rochester, and spent his early boyhood in Chatham, when his father moved in work in the pay office at the naval dockyard, and he knew every inch of Medway.

A new £1 million Tourist Visitor Centre opened in August in Rochester. There are plans to provide one ticket to cover all the places of interest with coach pick-up points.

But Rochester has other new plans. After a huge success of the summer arts festival — of classical music — plus the return of the Royal Shakespeare Company in November with the *Comedy of Errors*, there is a mood to introduce an event to celebrate the works of Dickens. The council is hoping to attract big hotels to the area with its new marketing strategy, and is planning to expand Dickens tourism and festivals.



The model campus: the Grade I listed buildings were formerly the officers' and ratings' quarters

Making waves in science

The University of Greenwich, London, is growing at a rate that few British universities can equal. Having acquired the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, from next year, it has also firmly established its School of Earth and Environmental Sciences — and now opened its School of Engineering — at the new Medway Campus, Chatham Maritime, in Kent.

The campus will offer higher educational facilities to 2,500 students. Six hundred have already begun their degree courses.

The Grade I listed university buildings were the officers' and ratings' quarters. Where the ratings slept in long rows of slung hammocks there are now libraries, lecture halls and laboratories.

In 1994 the university — now the tenth largest in Britain — decided to move to the Medway Towns, which had no equivalent university or higher education facility. "Such a high population needed in its midst the learning facilities that we offer," Professor David Willis, Dean of the Faculty of the Environment at the Medway Campus, says. About 60 per cent are of the

Medway Campus: from naval college to learning centre

London, it also put together a joint venture company — the Natural Resources International Ltd — to become the business-winning arm of NRI. The institute aims in wide more managed research, consultancy and training projects. The NRI staff, who have tremendous hands-on experience abroad, will also lecture students on environmental studies and earth sciences. Just back from China, where the university is establishing yet another arm, Professor Willis says that the Medway Campus is also working in the Medway Towns with local authorities and business people. "We hope to encourage businesses to use our services. There are superb laboratories and our new School of Engineering, which opened this year, is ideally based here in Medway, where so many people have great engineering skills."

DELLA MASON

The University's School of Engineering, in particular, is seen as an exciting catalyst for the Medway Towns. There are open days from next month. Details on 0800 005 006.

John Grigsby reports on the environment and the pressures posed by development. Will they ever get along?

Despite the international importance of its estuary as a wildlife habitat, the River Medway faces pressures which are as acute as those on any river in Britain.

The estuary is recognised as of international importance — it supports 70,000 waders and wildfowl in winter. But the wide channels and sheltered harbours, with their easy access to the North Sea which made it a natural home for the Royal Navy at Chatham and

Sheerness in the 17th and 18th centuries, also attracted paper mills and power stations in the 20th. For years they — and the ships which served them — discharged their detritus into the river.

Recent government legislation with its stiff fines for pollution has changed that, but the river's various roles

add to the pressure on the Medway. As a navigable highway, the river is becoming increasingly busy. It handles about 20,500 commercial vessels a year, with a grand total of 24 million tonnes.

It falls within the Thames Gateway, the area between Greenwich and Sheerness which the Government hopes to revive, and where there is pressure for development along the banks to cope with derelict land and tackle the high rates of unemployment.

When it comes to a choice between reviving the economy and protecting the environment, the economy often wins. In July, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds won an important victory when the Government had acted illegally by leaving Lappel Bank out of the Medway Estuary Special Protection area for economic reasons. But the mudflats, supporting important bird species, had already been destroyed.

It is also an important recreational area with 4,000 resident moorings for yachts and cabin cruisers and many yacht clubs and marinas. Nor is that all.

Chris Corrigan, senior conservation officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says: "As well as development pressures in the

Medway, you have also got issues such as sea level rise. When you build sea walls, the sea level rises and you get drowning of the coastal habitats."

"The problem with a place like the Medway is that south-east England is packed with people and when they have got people pressures next to wildlife pressures, inevitably you get problems."

A new Medway Estuary and Swale Management plan which seeks to reconcile the conflicting interests will be published in February and Andrew Paley, estuary project officer for the North Kent Marshes Initiative, says that they will publish the final proposals in July. Although it will not be a statutory document, the various parties will be obliged to take it into consideration.

The local councils, the Sports Council, English Nature, the RSPB, the port companies, the fisheries and agricultural interests have taken part along with those whose livelihood depends on the river or who use it for pleasure.

Mr Paley says that five main areas of concern have been identified during the year and a half of discussion: sustainability, judging how much activity the area can take and how environmental habitats can be conserved and replaced; land use, including the use of brownfield sites; dredging; recreational access; and management and public education and awareness.

Medway Ports, the harbour conservancy and pilotage authority for the 17.5 miles of river downstream from Allington Lock to the Medway Buoys, advises sailors how to avoid disturbing the wintering flocks of geese, ducks and waders which have bred in the far north of Europe.

Its jurisdiction covers the Swale, Queenborough Harbour and Milton and Faversham creeks. The rest of the 60-mile river is non-tidal. Its Marine Division, headed by captain Derek Stoyles, the Harbour Master and a veteran of 34 years on the Medway, includes a river inspectorate whose responsibilities include monitoring all hazardous materials passing through the port, investigating and reporting on oil pollution, controlling yacht moorings and liaising with recreational groups and motor yachting organisations.

Users believe that the quality of the river is improving despite the pressures. Nigel Taylor, who manages Elm Haven marina which holds about 30 boats at Halling, three miles from Rochester, says: "I think Medway Ports do a pretty good job, although it might be able to do more if it had a bit more money to police the river."

"When I first came here as a boat owner ten years ago, the smell at low tide was sometimes awful. The firms and

catches. But I have to admit that the river still does not look very clean."

Brian Clayton, membership secretary for the Medway River Users' Association, says: "Really the only beef we have is that rubbish collects below Allington Lock and never seems to get sorted out at all. Otherwise we believe that the river is clean and much less polluted than it was."

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DANCE

The Canadian choreographer Edouard Lock brings his apocalyptic vision back to Britain



THEATRE 1

An enchanting tale of artisan love, Pottery, is one of the highlights of a festival of Baltic arts

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2

A little more wit is called for in James Martin Charlton's new play in Croydon, Groping in the Dark



TOMORROW

Why the conductor Riccardo Chailly is returning to the LSO after an absence of 16 years



Edouard Lock - "Meaning is not the foremost consideration"

Fast-talking poet of dance

Allen Robertson talks to the choreographer Edouard Lock about his new work as La La La Human Steps starts a UK tour

Two of his dances, Human Sex and New Demons, became apocalyptic and furiously raucous icons of the 1980s. We could be forgiven for thinking that Edouard Lock is one of yesterday's men, yet nothing could be further from the truth. We may have lost sight of him, but that does not mean that his company has not been busy at every other point on the global compass. Britain is about the only country in Europe not to have seen Lock's work since 1990, when he staged David Bowie's Sound and Vision world tour.

Though Lock's exuberant style has been cooling down over the past decade, his company, La La La Human Steps, continues to retain its reputation as trendy, hip and happening. Now, at long last, La La La is back on these shores for a tour which opens in Birmingham tonight and culminates in London next month as the finale of this year's Dance Umbrella festival.

Lock's current work, 2, was premiered in Paris in early 1995, and has been touring ever since. The response has been as rapturous as ever, even though 2 is something of a departure from his previous creations.

"It's a much more introverted piece than I think people remember me doing," Lock says. "With 2, audiences have a tendency to lean

forward. Before, you tended to press your back against your seat and just give in to being frontally assaulted. Here, the public has to be a bit careful, a bit more attentive."

Lasting an hour and 45 minutes without interval, 2 features a cast of eight dancers and two musicians, who play an original score for a pair of harpsichords composed by Britain's Gavin Bryars. "The reason I chose harpsichord," Lock says, "is that the harpsichord is oddly uninvolved. You can bang on it or you can barely touch it and it still sounds the same. Even at its ultimate extreme it is oddly removed, like a loud, but uninterested scream."

There is nothing loud or uninterested about the soft-spoken but compellingly intense Lock. Born in Morocco to an Arab father and a Spanish mother, Lock has lived in Canada since he was three. Unlike most dancers and choreographers he did not start out with a passion for sport and had never been in a dance class until he was 19.

"For a very long time all I was interested in was writing. For many years I was carrying around a little typewriter with me and pounding away. I was showing

absolutely no interest in any of the performing arts.

The transition happened in an unpredictable way. In college I took one elective theatre course, which turned out to be a dance class. It was the first time in my life that I was working non-functionally with my body.

Right off the bat there was for me an evident link between structure in language and structure in movement. Poetry is a structural form, juxtaposing words next to other words. Immediately, it struck me as very similar to the way one would choose to string certain movements next to other movements.

"With both poetry and choreography, meaning is neither the first nor the foremost consideration. And once meaning is taken out, you are dealing with abstract laws, you are dealing with something you have to sense because there is no clear rule regarding the juxtaposition of these structures. If there were, you would simply make a book explaining how to write poetry and then you would be done. But, of course, there would be no more poetry."

The poetics of dancing took over immediately. "I was voracious; between 1971 and 1975 I was everywhere, taking every class, ferreting out every obscure style. I could not afford to come to Europe, but I spent most of my time on the bus to New York and hunting down anything that moved."

Rather than taking up permanent residence in Manhattan, Lock opted to retain his base in Montreal. "I needed to be working and it didn't really matter where I was, so I followed the opportunities. In those days they were definitely more Canadian. That is where I had the options to work."

In 1980 he started his own company. A year later he met his muse, Louise Lecavalier. "She was absolutely focused on exploring dance, that really was her prime concern. It was rare in Montreal to have that sort of intensity for something that did not pay a penny. She put an inordinant amount of effort into everything, and her discipline was certainly an attraction for me. It was — and is — a shared aesthetic. For both of us, nothing else mattered."

Lecavalier is indisputably the central character in 2. In addition to being vibrantly on stage herself,

Lecavalier is seen in a pair of films that are screened simultaneously side by side. In one she is 30. In the other she plays a 95-year-old.

"The films deal with a very clear subject-matter," says Lock. "They share common activities like eating and sleeping, measurable mundane things which everybody does. In one Louise is Louise. In the other she is a non-person."

"The thing I learnt from doing this is how lonely ageing must be. Once Louise had the old woman's make-up on she simply disappeared. It is frightening how the film crew responded to her in a totally different manner. She just wasn't there."

"People clear away from you as soon as you're 35. In terms of selling things, in the photography of advertisements, you are just not there any more, you are not represented."

"Seeing that, I realised that there's something oddly virginal about coming into a room of people who do not care what they look like. All that sick old people care about is getting the coffee cup to their lips. They are not in the least interested in how their pinkie may or may not be curved."

La La La Human Steps is at the Birmingham Hippodrome today and tomorrow; the King's Theatre, Glasgow on Friday and Saturday; the Grand Theatre, Leeds, Oct 31-Nov 1; and the Peacock Theatre, London, Nov 5-8

THEATRE: A dazzling Baltic festival; an Immorality Play in Croydon; courtroom drama transfers from school hall to West End

Cast in Estonia

PEETER JALAKAS's quirky and inventive theatre show, Estonian Games, Wedding, was the perfect opener for the festival of Baltic arts, Altered States, at Watermans Arts Centre, west London. It used computer technology in a witty and sophisticated way, and gave a vivid flavour of Estonia's folkloric tradition to dispel any narrow-minded preconceptions you might have had about theatre from this small country.

The stage consists of a huge screen on which the director, seated at the front of the stage, plays a live computer game. At the top of the screen, Estonia's history is presented at the rate of one year every six seconds, starting in 1100. Invasions from Russians, Swedes, Germans, Danes or Crusaders are fought off or not; cities fall, are captured and fall again, a constant backdrop of turbulence to the stage action.

But ordinary life goes on. Jalakas chooses to present a traditional wedding, and immediately on the screen appears a group of severe-looking matrilarchs in full traditional costume. First we hear the haunting sound of their runic chanting, then they step right through the screen: seven full-throated women from the Setu Choir, Leika.

History unravels as the wedding preparations continue until, in 1946, the Soviet invasion stamps out the country's newly won independence and 21,000 Estonians are deported. But by the time the bride finally takes her groom, it is 1991. Estonia is independent and, before we know it, we have crashed into the present and there we are, the audience on screen, happily applauding.

Equally enchanting, though in a dramatically different way, is Prit Pedaj's story of

artisan love, Epp Pillarpart's Pottery. In a ramshackle old pottery, the owner, a dour-looking fellow (Prit Pedaj himself) finishes his last pot, bequeaths it to his young wife Epp, walks offstage and dies. Pedaj then plays exquisite ancient tunes on the kannel, a zither-like instrument. The bearded Epp (Liina Tennosar) and her workers Niilas (Jaan Rekkor) and Jass (Heiko Soot) alleviate their days by breaking into heart-rending songs to Pedaj's accompaniment.

Of course, both Niilas and Jass are in love with Epp. Tension breaks out in hilarious rivalry between them. The acting is fine and funny, and a sense of Estonia's rural past is simply and effectively evoked. If the rest of the season continues as it began, it will prove to be one of Watermans' most memorable events.

CLARE BAYLEY



Feat of clay: Heiko Soot and Liina Tennosar in the witty Epp Pillarpart's Pottery

A fable less than fabulous

THE TITLE has its sexual meaning, and more than a furtive grope goes on in the warehouse at the fringe of town. Here, excited by Ecstasy, patrons lose any remaining inhibitions that stop them satisfying their desires. But James Martin Charlton probably wants his title to be taken philosophically. All systems are malevolent, especially those to do with politics and religion; the longing to find a comforting system is immature and we must grope, in the dark, as we shape a personal standard of conduct.

The play has to mean this, and I am with the author in his general standpoint and in many of the utterances his odd characters make as the plot zigzags them this way, that way and back again. But he has done himself few favours in the form he has chosen to show how his protagonist, named Saint, goes floundering between a dull marriage and the hedonism of the warehouse, embracing his employer's son but too confused to know what to do next.

Charlton's previous full-length play, Fat Souls, was an exceptionally promising work, showing how a fat lump of a girl braved the sneers of fellow workers, found happiness, lost it and maybe in the end found comfort tending her gay lover's garden. Some characters wore masks, and the dialogue frequently turned into verse, but these decidedly uncommon features for a modern play were employed with adroitness and pungency.

In this new play, presented by Friendly Fire Production

Groping in the Dark Warehouse, Croydon

and directed by Charlton, Saint (Tom Kane) is a painter taken up by Lord Stooce (Richard Earthy) to teach his son the useful disciplines of art. The dramatic function of this lusty youngster (Sebastian Knapp) is to represent instinctive resistance to his father, who is fond of giving Hitler salutes and appears to be running the country.

The lad goes off to the warehouse, which is run by Baroo Sate, who could well be Satan in his long leather coat and top hat (overfamiliar accessories for a king demon) and who turns out to be Lord Stooce's rejected brother. Certainly we are not watching a naturalistic play here, but nor are we, in the first half, watching a well-organised or persuasively argued one. The dream sequences, the character of the Guru (Euan Macnaughton), and the summary progress through time are some of the play's intriguing features, but the parable form that makes it a sort of Immorality Play is too restrictive to carry Charlton's attacks and warnings convincingly.

However, what it has done is inspire a witty set from Zoe Gingell: a panorama of doors, sober and Palladian at one end, but gradually melting into sinuous curves until the other end is a Hellgape Banked with lascivious beauties. The play itself could have done with more of such wit.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Schoolboy stars of the macabre

ON PAPER John Logan's 1985 play Never the Sinner has all the tools to explore a fascinating slice of real-life macabre. His subject, the motiveless murder of a 14-year-old boy by two affluent students in Chicago in 1923, initiated one of the trials of the century and inspired Hitchcock's 1948 film version of Patrick Hamilton's play Rope.

What made this crime so disturbing was that Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb murdered Robert Franks with a chisel or no apparent reason other than a warped obsession with Nietzsche's theories about the master race. Having spent a year conducting his own research into the case, Logan stitched together original court extracts that tell a chilling story of two idealistic teenage homosexuals who fantasise about being intellectually beyond the reach of any moral code.

Unfortunately Philip Swan's production of Never the Sinner at the Arts Theatre is only remarkable for being the first school play ever to transfer to the West End. The cast, all from King's College School, Wimbledon, battle their way through the docudrama format with more courage than conviction. There are seeds of talent, but the show is really sustained by the sheer novelty of their amateur endeavour.

As the play shuffles between the trial and the events leading to the murder, Adam Chalk's sullen Leopold and Daniel Pirrie's gregariously camp Loeb smoke cigarettes, talk-up their superiority and interact like bank clerks who read dictionaries in their spare time. First-night nerves may have dampened the sexual chemistry. But the sly amoral-

Never the Sinner Arts Theatre

ity of Hitchcock's film, which made us side with the killers, is here as elusive as the chilling lack of motive. Beneath the silky good breeding, the grassed-back hair and the three-piece suits, you never quite shake the suspicion that Leopold and Loeb are nothing more than a remorseless pair of out-and-out creeps.

Where Swan locates his strongest conflict is in the courtroom battle between Simon Sandland's super-neat State Attorney, out to satisfy the bloodlust of Chicago's outraged citizens, and Christopher Day, a teacher from the KCS Junior School, who delivered a wheedling impersonation of the great American lawyer Clarence Darrow. With collar undone, Day's shambling lawyer squints at his clients like a man who has left his wit along with his accent on the number 24 bus. Despite this obvious setback, he still manages to draw a pungent ambivalence around Darrow's stout appeals for mercy.

It was Darrow's introduction of psychiatric evidence — the first time in a murder trial — that commuted the young men's certain death sentences to "life plus 99 years". How much he did it for the sake of his own reputation is deliciously muddy. His closing summation lasted three days. KCS commendably wrap up Logan's play in an hour and a half. They should take heart from their West End blooding: time, after all, is on their side.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Facing off: Thomas Murphy and Euan Macnaughton

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VISUAL ART 1
 Picasso painted by
 Picasso in 1907:
 Paris celebrates
 the obsessive
 portraits of a
 20th-century giant



VISUAL ART 2
 ... while Raymond
 Mason's 50-year
 love affair with the
 French capital is
 showcased in his
 London exhibition

THE TIMES
ARTS



CONCERT
 After the Three
 Tenors, London
 welcomes the
 European debut
 of America's
 Three Sopranos



RECORDING
 Chopin's Waltzes
 hear them at their
 best, courtesy of
 this week's
 'Building a Library'
 recommendation

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on a monumental Picasso exhibition in Paris; plus London galleries

Portraits of the exorcist

In terms of the subjects he chose to paint, Picasso was surprisingly traditional. Even at the height of his revolutionary attempt to overhaul the language of modern art, he resisted the new, machine-age motifs favoured by so many of his avant-garde contemporaries. Time and again, portraits and still life claimed Picasso's attention. And of the two, portraiture lay closer to the centre of his protean imagination.

Picasso never lost his youthful fascination with the faces and bodies he saw around him. Indeed, his appetite for portraits became voracious as he grew older. While spurning the whole notion of an officially commissioned likeness, he never tired of scrutinising his wives, mistresses, children and friends. They may not have recognised the drastic distortions he unleashed on their features. But there is no mistaking his obsessive involvement with them, and a monumental Paris exhibition called *Picasso and the Portrait* contains an overwhelming number of his most fiercely impassioned works.

The survey commences in a wintry mood. Only two paintings are hung in the circular vastness of the first room, and they both belong to the Blue Period at its most melancholy. Free from the sentimentality which so often marred his work then, they show no desire to flatter. One, a 1901 self-portrait of the bearded, pallid artist buttoned up against the cold, is unexpectedly rough in execution. The other, a 1904 portrait of Carlotta Valdivia, shows an old woman staring out guardedly from the shelter of her dark hood.

Before 1907, however, nothing really prepares us for the violence Picasso turned on himself in that year. Here, at a time when *Les Femmes d'Alger* heralded the birth of Cubism, he reduces his own features to a scaffold of crude, black lines. The flat hair stamped at a brusque diagonal across his forehead seems to proclaim an angry, resolute mood. His elongated nose has a phallic obtrusiveness.

This is the portrait of a 26-

year-old artist hellbent on attacking worn-out ways of painting, in order to arrive at a new forcefulness. Even as he moved into the great, investigative period of Cubism, though, this complex young innovator proved reluctant to abandon the time-honoured practice of portraiture. Some of the most severe and apparently impersonal figure paintings from these years are, in fact, based on specific people. Fernande Olivier, with whom he lived at the time, is first seen as the subject of tender images during the Rose Period. Then, in 1908, she is transformed into the stern and sculptural *Woman with a*

curving across his face like a pencil moustache, Kahnweiler seems the most mischievous of the three men.

There was little room for portraits then, and they only reappear in quantity after Picasso met his first wife, Olga, in 1917. A dancer with Diaghilev's Russian Ballet, she appears controlled to the point of iciness in a neo-classical painting produced soon afterwards. Based on a photograph of Olga in the studio, it is one of Picasso's smoothest and least convincing performances.

It is a relief when the marriage begins to collapse, for Picasso's growing detestation of his wife generates some splendidly energetic heads. Olga becomes a predatory monster, snarling with fangs ready to bite. By the time he painted the large *Seated Bathing* in 1930, she is nothing more than a skeletal apparition on the beach.

His detestation of his wife generates splendid pictures

This is portraiture as revenge and exorcism, the work of a man now prepared to lose himself in a voluptuous affair with the young blonde Marie-Thérèse Walter. All the Olga-inspired venom drains away for a while, as the lustful Picasso turns a woman less than half his age into his new muse. She inspired the most erotic nudes he ever produced, and in a headlong painting called *The Mirror* he seems to reverse Velazquez's *Rokby Venus* to further his own sensual purposes. Instead of lying with her back to us like the *Venus*, Marie-Thérèse is shown from the front with global breasts exposed. And rather than following Velazquez's example by reflecting her face in the mirror, Picasso fills the glass with his lover's provocative buttocks.

To judge by the rapturous rhythms of so many undulating Marie-Thérèse-inspired paintings in 1932, this was the year when their relationship peaked. Three years later, he met the Surrealist photographer Dora Maar and embarked on a sharply contrasting set of images. In most of his alliances with women, Picasso's portraits proceed

from initial tenderness to terminal ugliness. But Dora's do not conform to this remorseless pattern. As early as 1937, she disintegrates into the fractured anguish of *Weeping Woman*, where the jagged handkerchief threatens to compound her misery by slicing into her eyeballs.

Since *Guernica* was painted in the same year, we cannot dissociate this woman's distress from the lacerating protesting grief of her counterparts in Picasso's epic pictorial assault on the horrors of the Spanish Civil War. Nor do we know whether he intended *Weeping Woman* to be a portrait, as opposed to a personification of bereavement. At times, I wondered whether this otherwise magnificent exhibition limited the

meaning of certain paintings by underlining the identity of the people on whom they are based. Picasso worked from memory or photographs rather than sitters, and these astoundingly inventive images flouted all preconceived notions about what a portrait might be.

But there are moments when he undoubtedly focuses on the personality and appearance of his subject. The affectionate, vulnerable 1942 *Portrait of Dora Maar* is one of them, and the close-up paintings of his two children Claude and Paloma provide another example a decade later. His last wife Jacqueline is, however, the woman whose likeness he honours most frequently. Throughout the experiments he makes in these final years, her large-eyed and imperious features are easy to identify.

So are the trio of late self-portrait drawings that bring the show to such a harrowing conclusion. Made in his nineties, they are utterly unsparring. Picasso now sees his mottled and decaying face as a death's head, and confronts the imminence of extinction with the same toughness he had inflicted on his youthful features back in 1907. Despite all the startling stylistic upheavals his work underwent in the decades between, this hard resolution remained unaltered at the end.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

AMONG Raymond Mason's elaborate, frequently grotesque sculptures there are a number of low reliefs of architectural prospects, mainly Parisian. They have achieved less notice than his crowded scenes of human figures caught in moments of everyday pleasure or exceptional pain—for obvious reasons, since works such as Mason's evocation of a mining disaster, *A Tragedy in the North*, compel a strong reaction, whether of love or detestation. The purely architectural panoramas, on the other hand, are, if not more conventional (for who else is doing anything remotely like them today?), at least less emotionally committing.

One such, *The Louvre, The Richelieu Wing*, is the centrepiece of Mason's new show at Marlborough Fine Art, a culminating tribute to the city. But the rest of the show comes as a complete surprise. One would assume, of course, that Mason must have made many preliminary studies of the buildings around him in order to record them in polyester resin. But who would have expected to see this succession of meticulously executed watercolour townscapes (along with a couple in oils), testifying to Mason's absolute obsession with detail? *Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-639 5161), Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until Nov 9.*

inglessly, be grouped under the catch-all heading 'Modern British'.

Many of his discoveries have been made through gathering material for a succession of annual shows devoted to British illustrators. But when one remembers that he is also the great current proponent of Albert Goodwin and the 20th-century watercolourist successors to Turner, it will surprise no one that the latest artist to be taken under his wing is the 'rediscovered genius' Cecil Arthur Hunt (1873-1963). Hunt was prominent in the Royal Watercolour Society and the Royal Society of British Artists, but seems to have been totally uninterested in selling himself to a wider public.

Indeed, to look at the list of his travels over 30 years in the beautifully illustrated book which accompanies the show (EIS), it is a wonder that he achieved the fame he did. He had a passion for mountains, and even his smallest works are monumental in conception. The most evident influence is mature Turner, but from time to time we are reminded that all of Hunt's professional career belongs to the 20th century: not only are there occasional examples of industrial romanticism, but also some of the paintings have a crispness of outline which recalls less Turner-esque artists such as D.Y. Cameron. 'Genius' is not, perhaps, overstating the case.

Chris Beetles, 8 B 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-839 7551), Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until Oct 25.

There are few better eyes in the business than Chris Beetles's for discerning the merits of neglected or forgotten artists who would now, rather mean-

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Hunt's *Château de Crussol, Valence* (1927)

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

Chopin's Waltzes
 Reviewed by Stephen Plaistow

CHOPIN authorised only eight of his waltzes for publication and was concerned that the others should not circulate without his consent. The 'extras' comprise early works together with a smaller number of pieces from his maturity that he gave to friends and initiates as presents and *pièces d'album*. Posterity has rightly judged that we would be the poorer without them, whatever Chopin's wishes may have been. There are more than 20 CDs currently available which include the eight published waltzes plus a varying number of the others, usually six but sometimes as many as ten or eleven.

The waltzes inhabit the salon and elevate its conventions into a sophisticated art-form, and they reveal a lot about the performer, who must waltz them in his head as he plays. They are merciless in showing up the limitations of an interpreter's personality, and not just in the rhythm department. Some good players keep your attention for a while and then become predictable, or forget that virtuosity should always serve the exuberance of the dance.

In Dinu Lipatti's still unsurpassed studio recording of 1950 one is hardly aware of detail any more, only of Chopin's voice (EMI CDH 69802-2, £9.99). Alfred Cortot said of his former pupil that he was 'perfection'. Cortot's searing oratory was not always so



immaculately realised in keyboard terms, but the six-CD set (if you can run to it) of his historic Chopin recordings, which includes the same 14 waltzes as Lipatti played, is indispensable (EMI CZS 7 67359-2, budget price).

Modern recordings to put beside these are not too plentiful. At budget price, Philip Fowke is personable, nicely recorded, and he captures a balletic lightness and grace that eludes the many players who over-project (Classics for Pleasure CD-CFPSD 4790, a two-CD album also including the sonatas, budget price).

A recommendable single CD at budget price is Tamas Vasary's, though the 1965 recording rather tells against it (DG 439 406-2). For a modern digital recording of all-round quality, at full price, my recommendation is Jean-Philippe Collard, who plays 19 waltzes with the kind of cultivated pianism and precision of sound that are hallmarks of the best French players. If at first he seems cool, his calibre is soon apparent and he makes you want to listen on and on (EMI CDC 7 47641-2, available only through EMI's Special Import Service).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk
 Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): A.C.P.E. Bach Survey

CONCERTS: America sends three sopranos to take on the tenors; a chamber orchestra without a conductor



Girls' night out sopranos Kallen Esperian, Cynthia Lawrence and Kathleen Cassello

Three little maids

IT HAD to happen. With the Three Tenors limbering up towards retirement, it was only a matter of time before the Three Sopranos invented themselves. They swept in on Sunday for their European debut, a touching reminder of London's standing in the musical world. Having learnt from the mistakes of many a rained-out Three Tenors concert they took the precaution of holding theirs indoors, and almost managed to fill the London Palladium. They forgot that indoors neither they nor the London Philharmonic would need amplification, but the polite audience gave the most painful top Cs the longest applause.

At ticket prices a fraction of what their colleagues had charged, they still managed to supply One Tenor - Pavarotti, whose appearance in his box delayed the start. Unlike the instantly recognisable

Tenors, the Americans Kallen Esperian, Cynthia Lawrence and Kathleen Cassello are not well known here.

Still, this bringing together of three prima donnas was a significant occasion. It is not the nature of the animal to share the limelight, but as the evening progressed the knowing smiles that flashed every time a difficult passage was to be negotiated gave way to genuine high spirits and an impression that they were having a good night out.

The first half of the programme featured operatic excerpts - opera for people who don't like opera, and wouldn't be turned on to it by Marco Armiliato's unsparring account of the *Figaro* overture. But at least he was supportive of his singers. It was not long before *O mio babbino* appeared, and the only surprise was at not hearing the *Lakmé* duet: perhaps BA owns the

performing rights these days. The medleys, by arrangers who made up for what they lacked in taste with ingenious modulations, worked better in the lighter second half, which opened with a deliciously vamped-up *Three Little Maids*.

But the concert would not have been complete without each singer's solo slot. Lawrence revealed strong but steely tone in *Madam Butterfly's Un bel di*, and Cassello was ill at ease with the coloratura of *Sempre libera* from *La traviata*. With her silvery soprano and soft, controlled singing of Kern's *All The Things You Are* and numbers from *Il trovatore*, Esperian easily won the talent contest. It's good that she will be back as the Royal Opera's Desdemona in the spring - and without amplification.

JOHN ALLISON

HOT-FOOTING it from Berlin's Konzerthaus, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra of New York arrived at the Barbican for London's share of the imaginative Group Dynamics concert series, which twins the two cities and the two halls.

The shared programme this one had as its centrepiece the homegrown Symphony No 3. *The Camp Meeting* of Charles Ives, a welcome return performance by a composer proudly and justly celebrated at the Barbican earlier this year. The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra play without a conductor, and the sense of constant flux in Ives's music was articulated with keen, vividly variegated playing born of close listening.

These three movements - *Old Folks Gathering*, *Children's Day* and *Communion* - reverberate with the echoes of half-remembered, far-off things. As a solo oboe filters through the strings, like a shaft of light through a chapel window, one rhythm, one texture becomes refracted through another.

Mahler, when he was conducting the New York Philharmonic in 1910, seized enthusiastically on this symphony and asked for a copy, intending to perform it in Europe. He died, alas, the following year. He had also given his blessing to Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* string quartet, despite his generally low opinion of the composer's chamber music, by arranging it for string orchestra, and the OCO's performance movingly revealed the subtle responses of one composer to another.

For the slow movement, where Schubert's eponymous song becomes abstracted into instrumental variations, the violins' note-by-note searching out of the hushed melody was articulated within one long

Sainted Ives

current of breath. In the outer movements, supple melodic contours lifted the music through each modulation of key and texture, even if Mahler's arrangement takes some

of the sting out of the tail of the angry Scherzo.

In between these works, trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger joined the OCO: first with piccolo trumpet, limber and light-filled, for Bach's Second Brandenburg Concerto, then noble and assured, with the later, fully adult keened trumpet, for Haydn's E flat Concerto.

HILARY FINCH

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CHOICE 2 Gene Wilder is in Neil Simon's comedy Laughter on the 23rd Floor

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3 Chichester's Talking Heads comes to London with Maggie Smith



OPERA The ENO revival of David Pountney's Cunning Little Vixen does not quite live up to expectations

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ACCOMMODATING EVA: One... Albert Finney stars in the play that wowed Paris, Yasmina Reza's Art

THEATRE GUIDE... Gene Wilder is in Neil Simon's comedy Laughter on the 23rd Floor

CHOICE 3 Chichester's Talking Heads comes to London with Maggie Smith

OPERA: An ENO favourite disappoints; Clonter Opera for All means what it says

Foxy lady is showing her age

The David Pountney production of Janáček's opera is now an incredible 16 years old. It has been in the ENO repertory for half that time, and is as much a Coliseum classic as Jonathan Miller's mafioso Rigoletto.



Singing with bite: Lesley Garrett in the title role of Janáček's Cunning Little Vixen

Potent populist potion

USUALLY the Briten Theatre, within the Royal College of Music, rings with the sound of Italian, French, German, even Russian; the London Opera Schools believe in original-language opera, and even subtitled are scorned.

NEW RELEASES... BOSTON KICKOUT (18) School leavers seek good times in Seawage

CINEMA GUIDE... Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol +) on release across the country

CURRENT... JUDGE (18) Vigorously depressing version of Henry's novel about despatched hoodlums and their lives

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (PG) The classic, with Terry Jones as Toad and Eric Idle as Rat. Jones also directs

NOTHING PERSONAL (15) Lincoln's dramatic about sectarian violence in Belfast. Strong performance by Ian Hart, John Lynch and James Fran. Director, Theodoros Anastasiadis

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS (PG) The classic, with Terry Jones as Toad and Eric Idle as Rat. Jones also directs

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LAW

STOPPING STALKERS 43
LAW REPORT 23

'This is only the start'



Lord Mackay of Clashfern, above, explains proposals for a better-targeted, best-value legal aid system



A woman approaches T.V. Edwards, East End solicitors, in search of legal aid: is the present system out of control?

The latest figures for legal aid spending show an increase of 10 per cent in the year to August. The nature of the present scheme makes it impossible precisely to control the amount spent...

For the first time, legal aid will have a predetermined budget. We are widening the scope of this scheme to bring in new types of services, such as advice agencies...

they will ensure that available resources stretch further to help more people and are targeted at those with the greatest need, as well as giving control from year to year of the amount to be spent.

voluntary advice agencies for more than a year. In August it published for consultation its proposals for the second phase of that pilot. By December, the board will be in a position to invite formal applications...

In July I started consultation on standard fees for advocates in civil cases and litigators in family cases. Standard fees help not only to control costs under the existing scheme as an interim measure but also to meet any desire to provide a quicker, more certain payment system...

Judging the right to a fair trial

Yesterday in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights heard oral argument in Gregory v The United Kingdom, an important case concerning alleged racial bias by a member of a jury.

contrary to the requirements of the Convention. The European Court added that the finding of a violation of Article 6 (1) was a sufficient remedy, with the addition that France had to pay the costs of the proceedings in Strasbourg.



COUNSEL DAVID PANNICK QC

Before the European Court, Gregory relies on a judgment given by them in April in a similar case of Remli v France. The applicant, a French national of Algerian origin, attempted to escape from prison by attacking a warder who subsequently died from the blows received...

The failure of other recent challenges to the impartiality of British juries illustrates the difficulties faced by Gregory. In February, in Hardiman, the European Commission of Human Rights rejected a complaint by a convicted defendant that a trial had been unfair because a female juror sent a note to counsel for one of the other defendants...

Equality creeps nearer

THE PROSPECT of the first woman to lead the Bar has emerged with the election of Heather Hallett, QC, as its vice-chairman for 1997.

INNS AND OUTS



Hallett: on the ladder Recruitment business is booming again - so much so that the leading recruitment consultancy Quarry Douglall has opened a new Birmingham office to add to its regional network.

Date set

A DATE has finally been set for the long-awaited inquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee into Freemasonry in the police and judiciary.

Aid to victims

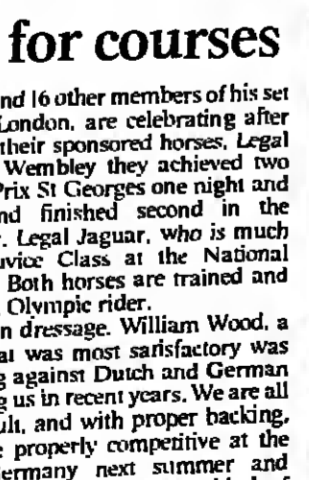
A PIONEERING insurance scheme to cover legal costs in medical negligence cases has been developed by the underwriting agents, Litigation Protection, in conjunction with Action for Victims of Medical Accidents.

Lost to golf

LARGE numbers of City solicitors who would like to be judges are being lost to the 'golf course' because of current recruitment procedures.

Legal horses for courses

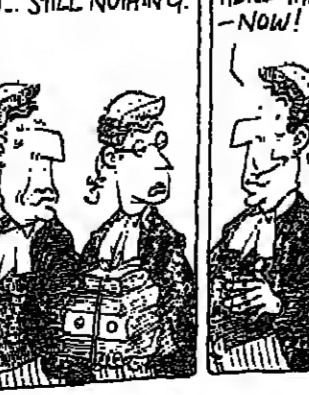
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, QC, and 16 other members of his set at Brick Court, off Fleet Street, London, are celebrating after spectacular recent successes with their sponsored horses.



Hestor on Legal Democrat

At present, they have to do up to four years as a part-time recorder, nearly always on criminal work - an area most City lawyers don't work in.

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Junior lawyer sought as assistant to Head of Corporate team in highly regarded City firm. Excellent client contact.

PROPERTY LIT. 2-4yrs
Specialist Property litigator is sought to join thriving team in well regarded City firm. Excellent prospects.

COMPETITION 2-4yrs
Top calibre UK and EC competition lawyer, with strong experience gained in private practice is sought by major firm.

INFO TECH NQ-3yrs
Exciting and varied workload is offered by prestigious IP/IT team. Strong commercial/IT experience is desirable.

INTELLECTUAL PTFTY 2-5 yrs
Two posts for conscientious/non-conscientious lawyers in popular IP team due to increasing workload. Strong prospects.

BRISTOL Construction Lit.
High calibre litigator sought to join prestigious team to undertake high profile, challenging workload.

TAX Partner Designate
Senior tax lawyer sought to join thriving medium-sized firm. Strong personal autonomy and prospects.

HOUSING ASSOCIATION 2-4 yrs
Top quality City trained lawyer with Housing Association experience is sought to join popular Harborn based firm.

ACCOUNTANCY Corp Finance
Junior lawyers 1-4 yrs pqr, currently working in major City firms sought by major accountancy player. Unusual role.

OXON Commercial Litigation
Exciting new opportunity for a NQ-2 year qualified solicitor with broad commercial litigation experience. Attractive salary.



For further information, please call Caroline Fish or Liz Nesser (private practice) or Bridget Bardon (In-House) on 0171 430 1711, or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171 831 4186.

0171 430 1711

LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

MAINSTREAM BANKING £125-300,000 +
Prestigious international firm with excellent capital markets, derivatives and project reputation is seeking an additional mainstream banker whose role will be to help develop the firm's UK relationships and reputation, broadening the range of finance work. Likely to be aged 31-45, you will come from a top 20 City firm and want to join a department where there is still the opportunity to manage a team and make a difference. (Ref:054)

CROSS BORDER FINANCE TO £60,000
International company with European headquarters in southern home counties is seeking to recruit a banking lawyer for their prestigious financial markets group. Will be involved in structuring, negotiating and documenting financial transactions in respect of trade and structured finance, capital and emerging markets and acquisitions. A free flow role for a technically astute and commercial lawyer seeking an alternative career path. (Ref:8132)

EC COMPETITION TO £35,000
This much admired, international Central London firm is expanding its commercial practice, and requires an EC/Competition specialist with 2-4 years' pqr. The department already handles a wide variety of work and is looking for someone with a good sense of humour, a straight talking, unpretentious approach and the ability to work well as a team member within a friendly environment. This position represents an excellent opportunity for an ambitious lawyer. (Ref:8172)

FINANCIAL SERVICES EXCELLENT
This dynamic new City practice is looking for a proactive regulatory lawyer, preferably with a fund management and foreign exchange bias. The successful candidate will be in a position to work with a supportive client base, both domestic and international. Excellent client care skills and the desire to take charge with other team members will be essential, as well as at least two years' relevant experience. (Ref:778)

CORPORATE FINANCE TO £50,000
This position represents an excellent career opportunity for a corporate finance lawyer, probably at a large City firm, frustrated at the lack of genuine responsibility and client contact. Although a smaller firm, with around 30 partners, the Corporate Department offers an impressive breadth of work, both on behalf of quoted plc's and family or entrepreneur-led private companies. Genuine prospects for partnership in a relaxed and friendly working environment. (Ref:8025)

For further information regarding in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). For private practice vacancies please contact Andy Golding, Sally Horrocks or Yvonne Smyth on 0171-377 0510 (0171-241 1219 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail andy@zmb.co.uk Website http://www.zmb.co.uk/

SENIOR APPOINTMENT TO £80,000
Generalist lawyer is sought for international financial services company with strong presence in currency retail. Ideally with previous in-house experience, the candidate will be part of an existing legal team and advise on general company, commercial, litigation and other European commercial matters. Based in London this is an exciting opportunity to join a household named company at a senior level. (Ref:8186)

NON-CONTENTIOUS INSURANCE TO £55,000
This top 10 City firm continues to expand, and to enjoy an excellent reputation for staff care and retention. They are now seeking an ambitious lawyer, 4-6 years' qualified with sound corporate/commercial insurance experience together with the ambition and drive to play a leading role in developing the firm's insurance practice. The work is wide-ranging and challenging for a high calibre candidate. (Ref:5155)

PROPERTY ASSISTANT £40-55,000
50 partner plus commercial firm with expanding practice, employment and benefits practice seeks property specialist at the 3-5 year level. Will join a multi-disciplinary team which offers a supportive environment and top quality work. The firm is non-hierarchical, profitable and offers excellent career prospects for lawyers at this level seeking partnership in the short to medium term. (Ref:795)

COMMERCIAL CORPORATE £30-60,000
This multi-faceted commercial property seeks a number of qualified lawyers to join the development, insurance sales, purchase and leasing, property management and PFI teams. With 2.7 years' relevant experience, a lively personality and business minded approach, you will be adding a quality where you can make a real impact and play an active part in client development/retention. The firm offers rapid career progression for young and able lawyers. (Ref:720)

BANKING TOKYO EXCEPTIONAL
Well known European finance house with strong presence in Japan is seeking a senior finance lawyer to be their sole representative in Tokyo. Will deal with a range of issues from derivatives to regulatory and more general company commercial. Will need to be at least 5 years qualified with an exceptional track record in specialist area. Will be on an excellent terms with a guarantee to return back to London. (Ref:8180)

ZARAK
MACRAE
BRENNER



ERNST & YOUNG
INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE CLIENT LAWYER
2-6 years' pqr £Excellent package

Ernst & Young is one of the world's leading professional services firms, providing accountancy, tax and management consultancy services to a wide range of prestigious national and international clients.

The Employer and Private Client Services department is currently seeking to recruit a lawyer for its globally respected and well established international private client advisory practice. Using an international network in over 60 countries the successful candidate will draw on this worldwide knowledge in advising a broad client base ranging from foreign domiciled individuals with international wealth to UK based high net worth entrepreneurs.

Suitable candidates will be between 2-6 years qualified, with private client experience gained in a major law firm or one of the other top accountancy practices. International experience is essential (US experience an advantage), as is a strong understanding of off-shore trusts, tax planning, CGT and IHT.

Effective interpersonal and communication skills are paramount, so too is the ability to give commercial, practical advice, combined with a flexible, team orientated approach.

In return Ernst & Young offers excellent opportunities for advancement. The level of responsibility and client contact is reflected in the highly competitive remuneration and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Emma Cowell or Greg Abrahams on 0171-405 6062 (0171-427 3674 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. E-mail emma@qdrec.demon.co.uk. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall Commerce & Industry Recruitment.

Rowe & Maw
ADMINISTRATIVE/PUBLIC LAW
3 Years' Pqr to Partnership

Rowe & Maw is at the forefront of one of the fastest growing specialist sectors, administrative and public law.

A Wide Variety of Interesting and Challenging Work

Our practice encompasses the full range of administrative/public law matters. We advise on areas as diverse as local government law, NHS law, public procurement, compulsory purchase, EC law, education, environmental law and housing. Our public law team, led by Tony Child, are widely acknowledged as leading players in this sector and have a remarkable record of success, acting for both applicants and respondents in judicial review and other public proceedings.

A Prestigious Client Base

We are instructed by public bodies and those who deal with them, including private finance providers. We have unique experience in advising local Government and NHS auditors often in relation to high profile cases which are very much in the public eye. We have a reputation for getting difficult law right and helping clients to achieve their objectives.

Excellent Prospects

Our expert and dedicated team will provide you with the support and guidance you need - whilst encouraging you to take responsibility. If you have at least 3 years' relevant experience (up to and including Partner level), particularly in local government law, gained in private practice and/or local government, then we can offer real prospects for advancement, including partnership.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney or Deborah Dalgleish on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394. This assignment is being exclusively handled by Quarry Douglall Recruitment, and any direct or third party applications will be sent to them.



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Where exceptional is the rule

Commercial Tax and Employee Benefits

As a leading City-based international law firm, Norton Rose offers a service that is designed to meet the needs of its clients around the world. Our highly successful Taxation and Human Resources practices are expanding and wish to recruit exceptional lawyers to meet the increasing demands of our clients.

Our Taxation Department is seeking lawyers with two to five years' experience to advise on the tax implications which arise in the following areas:

- Corporate Finance
- Banking and Capital Markets
- Asset and Project Finance
- International Joint Ventures
- Collective Investment Schemes
- Property Development and Investment Transactions

Our Human Resources Department advises on all aspects of employee benefits, pensions and employment law and is looking for an employee benefits lawyer with four to six years' experience to advise on:

- Share Incentive Schemes
- Bonus Arrangements
- Schedule E and National Insurance
- Long Term Incentive Plans
- Profit Related Pay
- Executive Remuneration Approval and Reporting

Both these departments seek lawyers with character, resourcefulness and strong academic records. We offer successful applicants the opportunity to develop their specialist skills working in close contact with major international financial and corporate clients.

For details of our opportunities for career development, highly competitive salary and benefits package please send your CV to Celia Staples.

Norton Rose

Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN.
Telephone: 0171 283 6000.

LONDON HONG KONG BRUSSELS PARIS SINGAPORE BAHRAIN PIRAEUS MOSCOW

Commerce and Industry

Intellectual Property
Global organisation requires a 0-2 years' ppe intellectual-property lawyer with fluent German. Dynamic and enjoyable working environment. Ref 32822 - Nicholas Woolf

Contracts Manager
International software group seeks a contracts manager with up to 6 years' experience. Must be keen to work directly with clients. Ref 33340 - Nicholas Woolf

Trust Manager
Based in the Caribbean, one of Europe's oldest privately-owned trust companies requires an experienced trust manager. Excellent prospects. Ref 33713 - Nicholas Woolf

Commercial Lawyer - Germany
Leading US multinational seeks international lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe in company law for autonomous role. Fluent German essential. Ref 33108 - Gill Newman

Commercial Lawyer
Confident and outgoing lawyer with c.2 years' company experience, ideally including IP/IT law, required by global IT company for European role. Ref 33130 - Gill Newman

Entertainment
Internationally renowned organisation seeks commercial lawyer with 4-6 years' ppe in film/TV distribution for role with responsibility for Europe. Ref 32818 - Gill Newman

PSD
Recruiter Slinkin Legal Recruitment

Recruiter Slinkin
5 Bream's Buildings
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 3DF
Tel: 0171 405 4161
Fax: 0171 242 1281
E-Mail: rsl@psd.co.uk

LEGAL COUNSEL

Oracle Corporation is the world's largest vendor of database software and information management services. Founded in 1977, Oracle is now the second-largest software company in the world. Oracle software is the world's favourite solution for client/server and Internet computing, corporate reengineering, and data warehousing. Our products include the Oracle 7™, Universal Server®, a complete suite of developer tools, and an integrated family of application products. Oracle employs more than 25,000 dedicated software professionals who provide our clients with consulting, education and support services in 93 countries around the world.

Oracle now requires an additional Legal Counsel to join the legal team responsible for East Central Europe and Middle East Africa operations.

The Legal Counsel's duties will include all day to day legal issues arising primarily in Eastern Europe, but will also be required to cover for additional regions. The work will involve drafting and negotiating licensing, services and training contracts, dealing with corporate and employment issues, reviewing legal issues in tender documents, and implementing and developing company business policies and practices.

Candidates should have two to six years' commercial experience and be qualified in the UK, US or Eastern Europe. Ideally, they will also have experience in intellectual property, information technology and corporate law. They must be fluent in English; knowledge of an Eastern European language is highly desirable. They must have the flexibility to be part of a constantly changing environment, be proactive and a team player. Above all, they must be commercially aware.

The position is likely to be based either in Switzerland or Eastern Europe and will require extensive travel. A generous remuneration package will be offered.

For further details, please contact Sonya Royner (who is handling this assignment exclusively) at Chambers & Partners (Professional Recruitment) 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET, tel: 0171 606 9371, fax: 0171 600 1793, or send her a copy of your CV.

ORACLE
Enabling the Information Age

SIDLEY & AUSTIN

BANKING & STRUCTURED FINANCE LAWYERS

London & Singapore

One of the ten largest law firms in the World

Currently Sidley & Austin has 760 lawyers, with offices in London, Singapore and other major financial centres throughout the World. There is a general tradition of professional excellence and collegiality and the London firm's ethos is that of a premier City legal firm.

The firm's success in London has been achieved by focussing on a limited number of practice areas and providing the highest calibre of advice. The London office has expanded significantly over the last two years and is currently embarking upon the next major phase of expansion. Naturally this necessitates the continued recruitment of lawyers of the highest ability.

As a result of the firm's current exponential growth of work, at least six additional banking and structured finance lawyers are sought with experience in one or more of the following areas: securitisation, structured, project or asset finance and cross-border banking generally. In addition there is a requirement for a property finance lawyer.

<p>LONDON</p> <p>Four lawyers to join the banking and structured finance group in London, two with 2-4 years' ppe and two with 4-8 years' ppe.</p>	<p>SINGAPORE</p> <p>Two lawyers to join the banking and structured finance group in Singapore, one with 2-4 and the other with 4-8 years' ppe, and qualified in either the UK, US, Australasia, Ireland, S. Africa or Canada.</p>	<p>LONDON</p> <p>A property finance lawyer 5+ years' ppe to cover structured property finance and securitisation with some mainstream commercial property work.</p>
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As we wish to recruit the best lawyers from the best law firms, the remuneration packages will be appropriate to match candidates' aspirations. There is a proven fast-track to partnership.

QD For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Adrian Fox, Gareth Quarry or Deborah Dalgleish 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6539 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Email: adrian@qdrac.demon.co.uk. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougal Recruitment and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

40 KING STREET CHAMBERS

are pleased to announce that

MR. PHILIP RAYNOR Q.C.

has succeeded Mr. John Hoggett Q.C. as head of chambers.

Members of chambers are:

<p>Philip Raynor Q.C. John Hoggett Q.C. Andrew Gilbert Q.C. Peter Smith Q.C. Roger Farley Q.C. Stephen Sauvain Q.C. Eric Owen John Jackson Harold Hilliday Frances Patterson Shokat Khan Vincent Fraser David Manley Michael Booth</p>	<p>John Barrett Sonia Gal Nicholas Braslavsky Paul Chaisy Alan Evans Mark Halliwell Anthony Crean Simon Hilton Katherine Dunn Ruth Stockley Fiona Ashworth Paul Tucker Geoff Pass Andrew Singer</p>	<p>Lesley Anderson Matthew Smith Sally Harrison Martin Carter Wilson Home Lucy Powis Mark Harper Stephen Baker Sarah Pritchard Clare Osborne Richard Lander Andrew Latimer</p>
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Associate Members: John Tackaberry Q.C., John Campbell, Julian Ghosh

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KING STREET
MANCHESTER

Clothing: Bar Management Services
Partners: William Brown, Colin Griffin, Michael Stubbs.
Administrator: Mary Ahern

40 King Street Manchester M2 6BA Tel: 0161 8329082 Fax: 0161 8352139 DX 718188 (MCH 3).

SPL
SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

SHORT-TERM OPPORTUNITIES

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL
Major utility, based in the Home Counties, seeks a solicitor/barrister of around 2 years' ppe to cover for a 6-9 month maternity leave. Candidates must have excellent academics, plus a heavyweight commercial background with experience in either joint ventures, project finance or loan agreements. Ref: 29904

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
6 month contract for a 3-6 years' qualified solicitor to work in a small team for this medium-sized law firm. Candidates will be handling high profile patent claims, licenses and distribution agreements. To start immediately. Ref: 30089

COMPANY/BANKING
International bank based in the City seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 2-6 years' ppe to act as number 2 lawyer in a small legal department. Candidates must have practical knowledge of company law, contract law, ISDA documentation and banking documentation. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 17210

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
Solicitor with 3-6 years' ppe sought by insurance company. Candidates should have a strong company/commercial background and will be assisting the head of legal with a heavy workload in relation to high profile matters. Contract will be for 3-6 months and is to start immediately. Ref: 30154

PLANNING - PART-TIME
Borough Council based in the Home Counties requires a solicitor/barrister with 5 years' plus experience in planning and commercial contracts. The work is predominantly non-contentious planning including section 106 agreements. Immediate start, 3 days a week for 5 months. Ref: 31189

CORPORATE
1-4 years' qualified solicitor sought by leading City law firm for a contract which may last up to a year. Candidates must have strong academics and a City firm background. Range of work will be extremely diverse covering takeover bids and defences, acquisitions, disposals, mergers and joint ventures. Ref: 28508

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Medium-sized commercial firm seeks 3 solicitors to assist with a heavy workload. Candidates must have a minimum of 2 years' experience and will be assisting on a major transaction. Contract will initially be for about 2 months. Ref: 29808

SENIOR BANKING
5-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to join West London office of finance house. Work covered will range from commercial contracts, banking documentation, managing external solicitors, to giving on the spot customer advice. Contract to start mid-October for 4-5 months. Ref: 31131

IT CONTRACTS
IT company based in Home Counties require solicitor/barrister to join their extremely busy legal team as soon as possible. Candidates must have 2-6 years' experience of in-house commercial work with a strong emphasis on IT contracts, as well as a robust personality. Ref: 30180

COMMERCIAL/EC
Well established commercial firm seeks a 2-4 year qualified solicitor for their commercial department. Candidates must have good negotiating and drafting skills on the commercial side with strong EC exposure. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 29654

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 0662 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

SPL is a QD Company

CITCO

IN-HOUSE LAWYER

£Highly Competitive + Benefits British Virgin Islands

The Citco Group is a rapidly expanding financial services group of trust companies and banks with over 25 offices in 14 countries. Citco offers professional and specialised services to institutional and individual investors who operate internationally.

The Citco Group is looking for a young, dynamic, company/commercial lawyer with between 0-2 years' ppe, ideally from a leading City practice to be based in the British Virgin Islands and act as a Trust Officer.

The role of a Trust Officer encompasses a wide range of duties from the preparation and administration of trusts and the incorporation and maintenance of international business companies to registrar and transfer agency services for mutual funds and unit trusts.

The position offers an excellent salary and benefits, with a non-contributory pension scheme, medical insurance, relocation expenses and with excellent prospects for the right candidate for a further career in the Citco Group of companies.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Hoar or Rebecca Errington on 0171-405 6062 (0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Email seamus@qdrec.demon.co.uk. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall Recruitment and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.



UNITED KINGDOM • FRANCE • THE NETHERLANDS • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

HEAD OF LEGAL AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS

POLYGRAM FILM OPERATIONS

PolyGram is one of the largest and most successful entertainment companies in the world. An exemplary opportunity has arisen for a senior lawyer to assume the role of Head of Legal and Business Affairs, PolyGram Film Operations, a division of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, to be responsible for managing the current team of lawyers and associated staff.

The existing department is responsible for the provision of legal advice on all aspects of the exploitation of rights within film, television and video industries. This involves the drafting and negotiation of a wide range of commercial agreements.

Additionally, the successful appointee will have integral involvement in the implementation of a new computerised rights availability system and will be required to assist in the implementation of such a system.

The ideal individual will have a minimum of five years' relevant post qualification experience, and must be able to clearly demonstrate managerial capabilities. Although in-depth legal knowledge of the sales and distribution aspects of the television and video industries is extremely preferable, previous sales and distribution

feature film experience is a pre-requisite.

Key personal attributes will include a highly developed commercial awareness and the ability to understand wider business and legal issues.

To succeed in this outstanding and challenging position, candidates will need to possess the self confidence to undertake a pivotal role within an expanding and highly competitive operation, and the ability to interact at the highest levels of senior management.

Naturally, your significant contribution will be properly recognised. The remuneration package will include an excellent basic salary, car allowance and other attractive benefits.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Deborah Kirkman and Ben Williams on behalf of Robert Walters Associates. Any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact either of them on 0171 379 3333 (confidential fax 0171 915 8714) or alternatively write to them at 25 Bedford Street, London, WC2E 9HP enclosing a full CV. E-mail: debbie.kirkman@robertwalters.com



ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES



LONDON WINDSOR NEW YORK AMSTERDAM BRUSSELS SYDNEY WELLINGTON

HM Diplomatic Service

Assistant Legal Adviser

Central London

Legal staff are based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London with frequent opportunities for overseas travel. They may also serve one or more tours of duty in one of HM Missions overseas and advise delegations at international meetings and conferences.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Legal Advisers specialise in public international law and certain aspects of European Community law. The work involves advising on the legal aspects of foreign policy, drafting agreements and legislation, conducting negotiations with other governments and international organisations and handling Human Rights cases and cases before the International Court of Justice. The work is highly responsible and involves a wide variety of legal questions.



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Candidates must be qualified as an advocate, barrister or solicitor in any part of the UK, with relevant post-qualification experience in legal practice, teaching or research or in an international organisation. Knowledge of French and/or another widely used European language would be an advantage. Candidates must be British citizens and be able to show a close connection with the United Kingdom.

Salary for the grade is in the range £29,844 - £42,325, starting salary will be determined according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 13th November 1996) please write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke 01256 468551 (24 hours) or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B3118.

The Diplomatic Service is an equal opportunity employer.

RUSSIA

Legal and Human Rights Call-Down Consultancy

The Know How Fund (KHF) wishes to engage consultants/institutions to provide a call down consultancy service to support the provision of technical assistance for legal and human rights reform in Russia.

The overall objectives of the call down consultancy would be to provide advice in the following areas:

- Human Rights
- Reform of the Russian Legal system and Judiciary
- Police Reform in Russia
- Reform of the Russian Criminal Justice System
- Reform of Russian prisons and detention centres.

The consultant/institution would be expected to have access to the wide range of legal expertise identified by the assignment; a good overall knowledge of the Russian legal system, police, prison service and issues of human rights; and an understanding of the international legal and judicial institutions. These skills may be in-house, but can also be called in as and when required. It is essential that the institution has experience of managing external contracts.

In the first instance the contract will be awarded for a twelve month period from January 1997. It is anticipated that up to 90 days (with scope to increase the number of days) for the provision of technical inputs should be allowed for the first year. Project management and administrative inputs are additional.

If your firm/institution is interested in being short listed for this engagement you should contact Miss H Thomson, Ref No AH364/HT/TT, Overseas Development Administration, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, telephone 01355 843525 to obtain further details of the information which must be submitted by 7 November 1996.



OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
BRITAIN HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

Director of Legal Affairs & Company Secretary

Central London

c.£70,000 + benefits

Quoted on the London Stock Exchange, with a market capitalisation in excess of £100m, our client is a technology based group of companies serving the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. A World market leader in its two key product areas, the Group is now poised to begin a period of expansion through organic growth and acquisition.

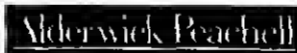
Having recruited a new top management team in readiness for this period of growth and development, the Group now wishes to add a Director of Legal Affairs/Company Secretary to its Group Executive Committee. A critical recruit for the Group, it is imperative that the incumbent will be an experienced and exceptional commercial lawyer.

In addition to establishing and maintaining the Group's legal policies and managing all Company Secretarial duties, the Director of Legal Affairs will be expected to take an active

role in Group acquisitions as well as having significant involvement in shaping the future direction of the organisation.

Candidates should have in excess of 8 years' post qualification experience, preferably with a training in a top City law firm followed by demanding and broad experience of in-house legal work, encompassing both corporate and company/commercial issues. With a high degree of business acumen, the individual must be a pro-active team player with strong communication skills who is a focused problem solver. This is a superb opportunity for an assertive and flexible lawyer with strong strategic vision and drive to contribute actively to the direction and shape of this exciting business.

Interested candidates should write, enclosing a full CV, to Juliet Shepherd at the address below. All applications will, of course, be treated in the strictest confidence.



Alderwick Peaschell Limited, Recruitment Consultants, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA. Tel:0171 404 1155. Fax: 0171 404 0140.

Director of Legal Services

This is a senior position in the world's leading animal welfare charity. The RSPCA is involved as a front-runner in improving standards of animal welfare at home, in Europe and worldwide. In consequence it operates on a high profile basis, from the work carried out by its Inspectors, Hospitals and Animal Centres, to working with government officials at the highest level to change the standards of welfare.

You will head up a team of qualified staff, with responsibility for all of the Society's legal work. This includes drafting and advising on UK and European legislation, prosecutions, property, legacies, legal advice to the Society's Council and staff, as well as providing a Company secretarial service to the Society.

You will have a broad based legal background in order to deal with the range of work, together with managerial experience gained in local government, commerce or industry.

A competitive salary is offered; other benefits include a car, health insurance and contributory pension.

Please apply in writing on a postcard for further details and an application form to:

Ref No. 188/243
Personnel Services Department
RSPCA, Casework, Moreham
West Sussex BN12 1JH

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 1 November 1996.

Evans Dodd BRIGHT YOUNG LAWYER

Small international firm specialising in company and commercial work, based in attractive offices in the heart of Mayfair and with a stimulating entrepreneurial client base need a City-trained assistant solicitor with 1/2 years experience since qualification. Please send resumes to John Cott, 5 Balfour Place, Mount Street, London W1Y 5RG.

Sprecher Grier

This small but well known Holborn commercial practice is expanding its non-contentious departments to maintain the high standards of performance that its clients expect. As a result the following vacancies are available:

Commercial property. Newly qualified or up to 2 yrs POE. Must have good communication abilities and be able to work in an organised manner. Company commercial. 2 yrs POE +. Should be able to handle a wide variety of company and commercial transactions including M&A.

Computer literacy an advantage. We offer good terms (including private medical fees scheme) and prospects with this firm are excellent for the right applicants.

Apply in writing, please, to:

D Sprecher Esq.
SPRECHER GRIER
HANOVER HOUSE
73/74 HIGH HOLBORN
LONDON WC1V 6LS

LONDON LAW

Leading independent company formation agent seeks lawyer or Chartered Secretary to assist in a busy department catering for specialist legal services. With ability to work alone and be self motivated, you will have contact with clients direct and deal with queries as they arise. Knowledge of company law useful but not essential. Applications in writing with C.V. to: Barbara Kelly, The London Law Agency Ltd, 84 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4Y 0HP.

PEACHEY & CO Solicitors

On Monday 21st October 1996 we moved offices to 95 Aldwych London WC2B 4JF Tel: 0171 316-5200 Fax: 0171 316-5222

BASEBALL: ATLANTA NEW BOY HUMBLER NEW YORK YANKEES

Jones is an instant hit in World Series

FROM KERITH BLACKMORE IN NEW YORK

A STAR was born as the World Series got under way in Yankee Stadium on Sunday night, but he was not wearing the famous New York Yankee pinstripes.

Andrew Jones, the Atlanta Braves left fielder, became, at 19 years and six months, the third-youngest player to appear in a World Series game. In the top of the second inning, he became the youngest player to hit a home run in the World Series when he crashed a fast ball from Andy Pettitte, the Yankee pitcher, over the left-field fence, giving the Braves a 2-0 lead.

In the top of the third inning he became only the second man in history to hit a home run in each of his first two at bats in the Series when he cracked a pitch from Brian Boehringer, the reliever, into the centre-field seats, scoring three more runs. He also put the game out of reach, sending the Braves on their way to a 12-1 romp behind the pitching of John Smoltz.

After the downpour on Saturday the Yankees employed police helicopters to dry the flooded outfield so that the first game could start a day late.

Had the Series opened in Atlanta, Jones would probably not even have played, but, because the teams are allowed a designated hitter (who hits for the pitcher but does not field) in the American League park, there was a vacancy. Ryan Klesko, the usual left fielder, stepped into the hitting role to make room for Jones, a brilliant fielder.

Jones, who hails from Curaçao, in the Caribbean (hence the Dutch spelling of his first name), had been voted the

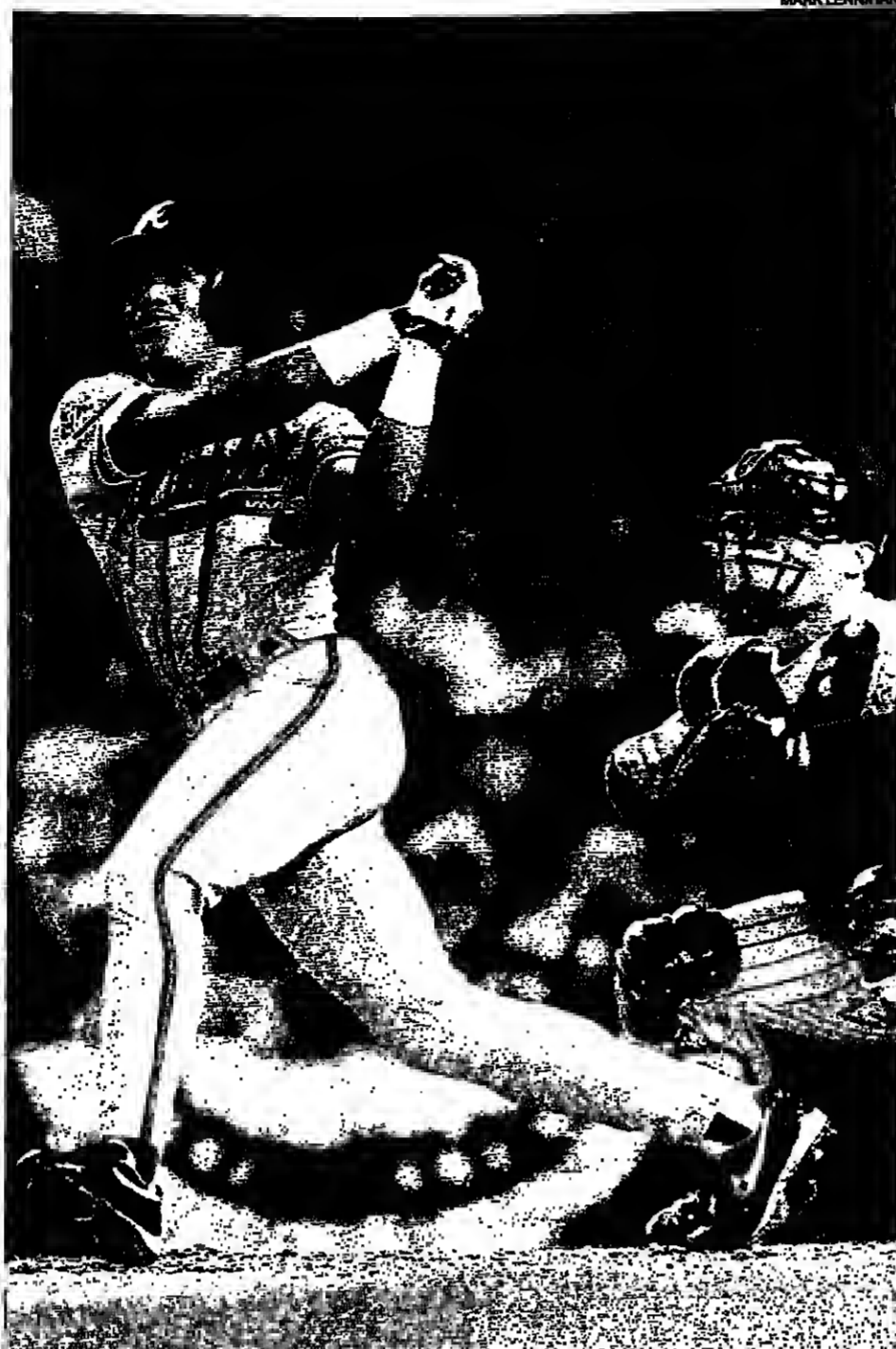
Minor League player of the year in each of the past two seasons before being thrown into the deep end with Atlanta this September.

Discovered at the age of 16 by the Braves' astonishingly widespread scouting operation, he has long been earmarked for greatness. "It doesn't take a genius to figure out that the kid can really play," Bobby Cox, the Braves manager, said. "He is about as good a prospect as you are ever going to see coming up in any organisation. He has all the tools: run, hit, throw, power. This kid can hit a ball as hard as anyone around."

Jones was unable to shed much light on the mystery of his talent, at least in English, the least accomplished of his four languages. "I try to do the job so I can play and sometimes things happen," he said.

It was his night. When, in the sixth, he broke his bat hitting a ground ball to third base, the broken barrel flew into the path of Wade Boggs, the third baseman, hampering his throw and allowing Jones to reach first base for an infield hit. From there, he later scored.

These individual achievements tended to mask another phenomenal hitting performance by the whole Braves team. Since finding themselves 3-1 down in the National League championship series, the Braves, the defending World Series champions, have won all four games that they have played, scoring 44 runs



Jones looks satisfied at his home run in the top of the second inning on Sunday

while conceding two. Since their strength is generally regarded as being their pitching, the sudden outbreak of hitting has turned a powerful team into an unstoppable one. Klesko was the only Brave

not to register at least a hit and Fred McGriff added another home run. The Yankees had no answer to either the hitting or the pitching and went into the game here last night knowing that they had to win to have much chance of surviving the next three games, all to be played in Atlanta.

Lost in all the fuss about Jones was a final young. Until Sunday the youngest player to

hit a home run in the Series was Mickey Mantle, one of the Yankees' best-loved stars, who died last year. Sunday would have been his 65th birthday. Jones was unaware of Mantle's hallowed place in the sport that attaches enormous importance to its history. His idea of a baseball idol was Ken Griffey Jr, the leading performer in the present Seattle Mariners team. Griffey is 26.

DETAILS FROM GAME ONE

Atlanta Braves	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0
New York Yankees	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	1

SNOOKER

Wattana's confidence receives a timely lift

By PHIL YATES

JAMES WATTANA, who a week today will lead Thailand against China in a group match on day one of the World Cup in Bangkok, yesterday continued to bask in the relative anonymity that he has discovered the Grand Prix in Bournemouth.

In his native country, Wattana is the centre of attention. However, after falling to twentieth in the updated provisional world rankings, he does not generate anywhere near that fanatical interest in Britain and the pressure that he feels comes from the need to meet the expectations of his countrymen.

During a 5-2 victory over Paul McPhillips, of Glasgow, Wattana displayed the outstanding break-building that carried him to numerous titles in the early Nineties, alongside the type of unorthodox mistakes that have caused his slump. In moving from 1-1 to 3-1, Wattana constructed runs of 131 and 130.

The 131, a total clearance, surpassed a 128 from John Parrott as the highest break of the televised stage of the tournament and made Wattana the front-runner for the £5,000 award that accompanies it.

That brilliance disappeared during the course of the 20-minute intermission. On the resumption, Wattana lost a scrappy fifth frame and McPhillips would surely have levelled at 3-3 but for missing a simple brown with the rest and, later, the pink. Having been fortunate to re-establish a two-frame cushion, the tension left Wattana's cue arm and he won the seventh frame without conceding a point to seal a much-needed success.

Euan Henderson, 29, a former electronics student from Glenrothes, compiled a break of 106 on his way to a 5-3 win over Jon Birch.

Results, page 49

SPORT IN BRIEF

Srinath rescues India after crowd trouble

INDIA beat Australia by two wickets, with seven balls to spare, in a triangular series match in Bangalore yesterday after supporters, protesting against the dismissal of Mohammed Azharuddin, forced a 20-minute stoppage in play. The batsman was clearly unhappy with the decision by the umpire, S. K. Bansal, and spectators began to hurl plastic bottles on to the playing area. They finally stopped after pleas from Azharuddin himself. India's World Cup semi-final against Sri Lanka, in Calcutta in March, was abandoned because of rioting.

Chasing a target of 216 from 50 overs, India were struggling at 16-4 before the bowlers. Jagal Srinath and Anil Kumble, put together an unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 52 runs off 40 balls. Srinath hit 30 off 23 balls and Kumble 16 off 19 deliveries.

Grand prix on move

MOTORCYCLING: Donington Park is to host the British Grand Prix for the eleventh consecutive year, but the traditional date will be changed. The circuit has secured an agreement with Dorna, which holds the rights to the FIM road racing world championships, to extend the existing arrangements for a further year.

The grand prix moves from its usual date in July to August 17, 1997. "A revised date and world championship programme will ensure that the British Grand Prix meeting is a major motorcycling racing summer festival," Robert Fearnall, the Donington director, said yesterday.

Tough tie for Narberth

RUGBY UNION: Narberth, of the Welsh League third division, without a win this season, will not relish their trip to unbeaten Bridgend Sports, of SB division central, in the fourth round of the Swansea Cup, on November 23.

DRAW: Carmarthen Athletic v Glamorgan Wanderers; Carmarthen v Pontcysyllte; Penarth v Pyle; Mumbles v Trefegwst; Taff's Well v Neath; Llanelli v Glynneath; Feloni v Treford; Rhondda, Mountain Ash v Henly Hall; Llanelli v Haverhill; Bridgend Sports v Narberth; Glas v Ammanford; Llantrisant v Dowlais; Porthkerry v Bridgend Athletic; Merthyr v Tonypandy; Ammanford v Caerphilly; Quins, Ruffin v Brycheiniog; Abercromby v RJB Ebbs Vale; Aberystwyth v Ponant; Borth Wells v Porthkerry; Pontypridd v Tumble; Vardre v Tudweil; Glynneath v Stantia; Briton Ferry v Whitehead; Stach Goch v St Peter's; Dinas Powys v Merthyr; Rhymney v Llanwain.

Henman's rise continues

TENNIS: Tim Henman, the British No 1, has risen one place to 25, his highest world ranking, after reaching the semi-finals of the Czech indoor tournament last week. But Greg Rusedski, who was beaten 7-5 by Henman in the second round in Ostrava, has dropped three places, from 53 to 56, in the latest list released yesterday. Both men are in Stuttgart for the Eurocard Open, for which Henman received a direct entry. Rusedski beat David Rikl, of the Czech Republic, 6-2 6-3 in the final qualifying round.

Lyle ruled out for Spain

GOLF: Sandy Lyle, who has fallen to 128th in the PGA European Tour money-list, has had an invitation to the Volvo Masters in Spain this week withdrawn. The former Open and US Masters champion won the event that ends the season four years ago. The tournament committee decided that six invitation places should go to non-members of the European Tour. Only two have been taken up but the 66-strong field has been filled instead by the next players on the order of merit.

Cardiff University of Wales
BVC WESTERN AND WALES
FIXED-TERM LECTURESHIPS: BAR VOCATIONAL COURSE

From September 1997 the Faculty of Law, University of the West of England, Bristol and the Centre for Professional Legal Studies, Cardiff, have been jointly validated to run the new Bar Vocational Course.

We are now seeking to appoint up to four barristers with good honours degrees and relevant professional experience.

Expertise in the following areas would be a significant advantage: General civil/commercial litigation, European Community law, Company law, Employment law, Criminal litigation.

You will be appointed either to Bristol or to Cardiff according to any preference indicated in your application (see below). Your major task will be to assist the existing teams at Cardiff and Bristol in the development of teaching materials for the BVC.

The salary level of these three year fixed-term appointments will fall within the range:
£20,677 - £28,634 per annum.

Separate applications are required for each University. Please quote the following reference numbers as appropriate: L198 (UWE, Bristol) and 96/137 (Cardiff).

Bristol: ring our 24 hour answer phone service on 0117 976 3813, or contact direct Personnel Services, The University of the West of England, Bristol, Coldharbour Lane, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1JQ.

Cardiff: for an application pack, please ring the Personnel Division (01222) 874017, Email: Persad@Cardiff.ac.uk, quoting reference number 96/137.

Closing Date: 15 November 1996

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Salary: £25,404-£30,913

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Required to aid the Force Solicitor in providing a full legal service to the Chief Constable and officers and staff of Thames Valley Police.

Ideally you will have substantial experience of civil litigation and police law including advocacy in contested cases plus experience of licensing law. You will possess good communication skills with the ability to master unfamiliar issues. A 37 hour, 5 day week is worked.

For an application form and job description PLEASE WRITE to the Resourcing Officer, Personnel Department, Thames Valley Police Headquarters, Oxford Road, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2NX.

Closing date for enquiries will be 8 November 1996. All applications must be returned by Tuesday 12 November 1996.

Please note a curriculum vitae will only be accepted when submitted with a fully completed application form.

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Due to a recent judicial appointment and an expansion in our premises, we invite applications for tenancies from:

- Senior practitioners, of more than 7 years call practising in all areas of family law or mixed family/civil law. Applications to be received by Friday 29th November 1996.
- Junior practitioners who wish practise in the areas of family and general civil law. Applications to be received by Friday 1st November 1995.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and should be addressed to Joanna Dodson QC, 14 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London, WC1R 5JP, DX 399 LDN/CH.

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A vacancy has arisen in our residential development unit. This is a niche unit within our commercial property department which specialises in carrying out work for major UK house builders. The successful applicant who will be a solicitor or an experienced legal executive will have in-depth experience, either within a house builders legal department or in private practice, in residential site acquisitions and disposals, associated planning agreements and other infrastructure agreements, options and consortium agreements. The applicant must be capable of working under pressure and be able to work as part of a small team.

Please apply by CV and covering letter to the Personnel Department at 79 New Cavendish Street, London. W1M 8AQ.

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AMERICAN FOOTBALL Redskins extend winning run with Giants' scalp

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WASHINGTON Redskins survived a second-half onslaught to beat New York Giants 31-21 on Sunday, their sixth straight victory of the National Football League (NFL) season. The Redskins have not started so well since 1991, when they opened with an 11-0 winning sequence on their way to a 14-2 record and a 37-24 victory over Buffalo in Super Bowl XXVI.

Terry Allen rushed for three touchdowns and Darrell Green returned an interception 68 yards for a score as Washington opened a 28-0 half-time lead, but the Giants refused to surrender. While Washington notched up 252 yards in the first half, the Giants came back with 292 yards and three touchdowns in the second before the Red-

skins tacked on a late field goal to seal the win.

Washington kept their one-game lead over Philadelphia, who beat Miami 35-28. They are followed in the National Conference eastern division by Dallas, who eked out a 32-28 victory over lowly Atlanta. It was a third straight win but a lacklustre effort by the Cowboys, who do not look like defending Super Bowl champions.

Dallas wasted a 17-6 lead, missed dozens of tackles and had to rally against the worst pass defense in the NFL. Troy Aikman linked with Kelvin Martin on a 60-yard touchdown pass with less than two minutes remaining to lift the Cowboys to a victory that kept Atlanta without a win this season.

NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Carolina 19 New Orleans 7, Dallas 32 Atlanta 28, Indianapolis 9 New England 27 Philadelphia 35 Miami 28, Washington 31 New York Giants 21, Arizona 13 Tampa Bay 8, Denver 45 Baltimore 34, Houston 29 Pittsburgh 13, New York Jets 22 Buffalo 25, San Francisco 23 Cincinnati 21, St Louis 17 Jacksonville 14

American Conference

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	2	184	117
Indianapolis	5	2	124	114
Miami	4	3	168	121
New England	4	4	174	140
NY Jets	4	6	114	212

Central division

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Houston	5	2	174	143
Pittsburgh	5	2	144	103
Cincinnati	3	5	151	183
Baltimore	2	6	158	201
Jacksonville	1	6	128	168

Western division

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Denver	6	1	189	127
Kansas City	5	2	151	106
San Diego	4	2	145	144
Oakland	4	2	156	134
Seattle	2	5	109	187

National Conference

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Washington	6	1	161	99
Philadelphia	5	2	160	149
Dallas	4	2	136	107
Atlanta	2	6	157	281
NY Giants	2	5	89	147

Central division

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Green Bay	6	1	227	92
Minnesota	5	2	127	116
Chicago	5	2	162	124
Tampa Bay	2	6	104	152

Western division

Team	W	L	PF	PA
Carolina	5	2	184	91
San Francisco	5	2	183	106
St Louis	2	6	105	185
New Orleans	2	6	121	180
Atlanta	1	7	123	207

(Not including San Diego v Oakland)

FIXTURES: Sunday: Atlanta v Pittsburgh; Baltimore v St Louis; Cincinnati v Jacksonville; Denver v New York Giants; Green Bay v Tampa Bay; Houston v San Francisco; Philadelphia v Carolina; Washington v Indianapolis; Arizona v New York Giants; Denver v Kansas City; Miami v Dallas; Seattle v San Oakland; St Louis v Buffalo; Seattle v San Diego; Seattle v Chicago.

ICE HOCKEY Duberman elevates Newcastle

By A CORRESPONDENT

NEWCASTLE Cobras put the icing on Sir John Hall's weekend cake with a 7-0 victory away to Bracknell Bees that took them to the top of the Superleague for the first time, one point clear of Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils.

Within hours of David Ginoia, one of Sir John's footballing imports, inspiring Newcastle United's 5-0 victory over Manchester United at St James' Park, another foreign player - Justin Duberman, a Canadian - ignited a stirring performance by the ice hockey branch of the Newcastle owner's sporting empire.

Having found the net twice against the same opponents on his debut the previous weekend, Duberman opened the Newcastle account after 11 minutes and his second goal of the game, with just six seconds of the second period remaining, took the score to 5-0.

The outstanding performance, however, came from the Newcastle and Great Britain goaltender, Stephen Foster, who saved all 40 Bracknell shots.

Ayr Scottish Eagles suffered their second consecutive defeat on their own ice, going down 8-2 against Cardiff. Another away win seemed likely when Derek Laxdal and Paul Adey gave Nottingham Panthers a 3-0 lead before ten minutes of their game against Manchester Storm had elapsed, but Manchester hit back, scoring six times without reply.

Results, page 49

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-league match
Copa-Cola Cup
Third round
Dunfermline v Rangers (at Celtic Park, 7.45)
Leeds United v Championship qualifier (at Dalmeida Park, 7.45)
FA UNIBRO TROPHY: First qualifying round replay: Moor Green v Althorn LR; Leigh RMI v Dryden; Gillingham v Alton; Grimsby v Bedworth; Great Harwood v Tarnworth; Worthington v Alton, Cambridge City v Gloucester Town; Wymouth v Farnham; Thame United v Handon; Walton and Herston v Chatham; Leyton Parrott v Newport (NW); Witley v Marlow
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Midlands division: Shepshed v Moor Green
IWS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Boreham Wood; St Albans v Dunwich; Yeovil v Yeading. First division: Alton v Hampton; Uxbridge v Bognor Regis. Second division: Dorchester v Bracknell; H Hempsstead v Egham; Horsham v Leighton; Leathhead v Egham; Whitcomb v Bedford 1. Third division: East Thurrock v Plaxwood Heath; Westcliff v Wargrave and Finchley
UNIBRO LEAGUE: Premier division: Swift Sarung v Azerbaijan Slazeyr; Colchester v Hyde; Lock v Rampton; Maidstone v Boreham Wood. First division: Conington v Mafeking Town; Curzon Ashton v Flinton; Eastwood Town v Worksop; Redcliffe v Harrogate Town; Stockbridge PS v Whitley Bay.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelton v Queens; Pan Rangers (at Welling United 2.0); Brighton v Arsenal (2.0)
PONTONS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Manchester City v Hull (6.45); Rotherham v Bradford (7.0)
LEAGUE OF WALES: Cup: First round, second leg: Caerwys v Ince Cable-Tel
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: CUP: Semi-final, Galway v Adzono
SUN LIFE GOLD CUP: Quarter-finals: Southampton v Ponadon; Bangor v Lifford; Glenavon v Crusaders; Omagh v Glanvran
SCHEMEX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Paulton R v Newport; Westbury v Omagh
COMBINED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ach v Harby; Park Vale v Gillingham; Rotherham v Walsley; Godsway and Gifford v Coatbridge
LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Senior Cup: Group D: Barkingside v Islington; St Mary's; Bromsgrove v Harrogate
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham v Bury Town; Glaston v Wrotham; Neamsport v Tipton; Sudbury Wanderers v Clacton Town
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Gosport; Gosport v BAT; Thatcham v Ryde Sports; League Cup: first round: Loochville v Harwich and Parkeston
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Bromsgrove Town v Blakeney; Stratford v Coventry
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Corinthian; Gillingham; Thomasmead v Clay; Tunbridge Wells
SCHOOLS MATCH: London Cup: Surry v Middlesex (at Ewell 11.0)
RUGBY LEAGUE
Tour match
New Crusade Maoris v Great Britain XIII (at Whangarei 7.30am)
OTHER SPORT
SNOOKER: Grand Prix (in Bournemouth)

Home truths that can save the lost souls of football

ONCE upon a time, a society was judged by the way it reared its children. Now we focus on those grown-ups wearing short pants who, in the glare of the spotlight, turn from role models into problem children. When Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, called yesterday for counselling as a matter of course, and not merely for fallen idols such as Paul Gascoigne and Paul Merson, his remedy followed almost word-for-word that of Carlos Saul Menem, the President of Argentina, when his country first wrestled with the drug-taking of Diego Maradona.



Overseas Football

beaten by an opponent reduced to ten men for most of the match. A session on the couch might have told the president the old one about ten men often proving more stubborn than 11.



Taylor remedy

player whose rise from the southern Buenos Aires shanty of Florida symbolised Argentina more than anything since the ascent of Eva Peron. The President, personally instructing the country's leading therapists to help restore Maradona at the beginning of this decade, acknowledged that children, this time literally, were pitched straight into the mania of international sporting acclaim without preparation and adequate schooling.

Menem belived in the Greek philosophy of sport "making men wiser and more cautious". Victor Lupu, secretary-general of Argentina's National Sports Council, was, however, instructed by him to ensure that boys did not give up school at 13, as Maradona had done, and so the children's programmes, called Children's Evita Sports, were born.

Dr Nelida Khaled, a clinical psychologist in Buenos Aires at the time Menem called for counselling, said, "Maradona came from the poorest sector of our society, he came to be despised for his riches. He was cut off from the earth, the habits of home, and the family. When all three are lost, you hallucinate, and it is not only drugs that can do this."

Victorious Sutton can set sights on higher attainment

David Powell relates a tall story of monotonous training bringing kudos to a working woman

Nobody can say that the odds were in Marian Sutton's favour — where she lives, her lifestyle, her height. Joan Benoit-Samuelson, the first women's Olympic marathon champion, commenting on television on the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, was struck by one perceived disadvantage. "She does not look like a marathon runner, she is very tall," Benoit-Samuelson said — but people used to say that Michael Johnson did not look like a sprinter.

Sutton, at 45, may never enjoy the full benefit of shielding from the elements behind a group, but she has never considered her build a drawback. Never? "Only when people say things like Joan Benoit said does it enter my mind that maybe there is something in it," she said. "Everybody thinks that tall people cannot be distance runners for some reason. I never suspected I would not be a good runner because of my height."



A triumphant Sutton crosses the line to claim victory in the Chicago Marathon

said, "I would say 90 per cent of the athletes at this level do not work."

Sutton has a right to expect good offers for next year from London and Chicago, so she could afford to go full-time, but she is not sure that she wants to. She is not even sure that she wants to run in London. She is reluctant to give up work because she would find the exclusive commitment to running suffocating. On the other hand, it would enhance her prospects of breaking 2hr 30min.

The Olympics is everything to an athlete," she said. "I was very upset with the British selectors over Atlanta. I felt unjustifiably left out." Sutton, now 33, was 17 when she ran her first marathon. "I remember going back to school the next day, to a cookery lesson, and I could not bend down to get the pots out of the cupboard," she said. So tall marathon runners do suffer disadvantages.

CRICKET Houghton helps Zimbabwe to safety

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE first Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe, at Sheikhupura, ended in a draw yesterday after Zimbabwe, who conceded a 178-run lead in the first innings, reached 241 for seven in the second innings when stumps were drawn with eight overs remaining.

Zimbabwe were in trouble when they resumed yesterday at 38 for nine — Allister Campbell being given out by Khizar Hayat, the Pakistani umpire, leg-before-the-wicket. Younis when Waqar did not appeal — but David Houghton and Grant Flower took the score to 124 before Flower was caught by Shadab Kabir off Saqlain Mushtaq for 40.

Andy Flower and Houghton had added 35 when Houghton was bowled by Saqlain for 65 and Zimbabwe's resistance appeared to be crumbling as Craig Wishart, who was bowled by Shahid Nazir, lasted only 26 balls.

Guy Whittall, though, joined Flower after tea with Zimbabwe on 189 for five and they produced a match-saving partnership of 54, remaining together for more than an hour. Flower scored only 18 but defied the Pakistan attack superbly for two hours. He was eventually bowled by Shahid, Whittall made 32 off 96 balls and was caught off Saqlain.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs, Overs. Includes names like M H Daker, M Wasim, S Saqlain, etc.

THE second and final Test is due to start at Faisalabad on Thursday.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Wickets, Runs. Includes names like M H Daker, M Wasim, S Saqlain, etc.

Match the match: West Indies: umpires O Orchard (South Africa) and Khizar Hayat (Pakistan).

It is important that we look at the lives of players away from football and try to make sure they do not take on too much, and can cope with things," Taylor said yesterday. "It is quite apparent because of the high profile of the game and the pressures on players, that it is important for football management, football clubs and football as a whole, to have counselling programmes."

Taylor is sincere in this and honest in his admission that neither he, nor anyone in football, has the training to deal with the personal problems (one might add the personality problems) of the modern so-called superstar.

One thing is evident: nothing same will penetrate the game unless the presidents, the chairmen, the rulers are themselves subjected to corrective measures.

Take Italy on a normal, i.e. manic day. Yesterday Cagliari sacked Gregorio Perez, their coach, because, a couple of months after being hired, he had failed to turn a mediocre club into a giant of Serie A. Cagliari were beaten on Sunday, 2-1, away to Lazio, and the president, Massimo Cellino, explained, he considered rationally, that he could not keep a coach whose team were

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Includes matches like Wigan v Bolton, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Includes matches like Wigan v Bolton, etc.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: CHICAGO MARATHON: Men: 1. P Evans (GB) 2:18:52; 2. J. Lanyon (GB) 2:19:42; 3. L. Swerdlow (USA) 2:20:00; 4. M. J. Kelly (USA) 2:21:21; 5. G. Staines (GB) 2:21:24; Women: 1. M. Sutton (GB) 2:30:41; 2. J. Benoit-Samuelson (USA) 2:31:06; 3. O. Bannock (CAN) 2:33:01.

BASEBALL: WORLD SERIES: Atlanta 10, New York 1. Atlanta lead best-of-seven series 1-0.

BASKETBALL: BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Worthing 96, Dorset 115, Sheffield 95, Dorset 74.

BOWLS: ALL-ENGLAND MIXED INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP (East Region) Preliminary rounds: Hull and Beeston at North 2-0, 31-70; East Lindsey at Spalding 7-3; Lincoln at Southport 99-70; Doncaster at Long Sutton 84-81; Huddersfield at Doncaster 84-63; Boston at Gurney 51-65; Scarborough at Mablethorpe 63-70; Scarborough at Mablethorpe 63-70; Nottingham at Church Gresley 110-69; Leicester at Charnwood 88-86; Ashford at

POOLS FORECAST: Saturday October 26: 18 Sheffield v GPR, 17 Stoke v Portsmouth, 18 West Brom v Bradford.

LACROSSE

MOTSPUR PARK Women's Interclub tournament: London University 6, Cambridge University 5, Oxford University 5, Cambridge University 6, Cambridge University 6.

MODERN PENTATHLON

BERNARDIEN SCHOOL: Sevens Open: Men: 1. E. Egan (Ox) 5, 10, 12, 25; 2. M. Mitchell (Northampton) 5, 10, 12, 25; 3. S. Robson (Sevens) 4, 10, 12, 25; 4. J. Allen (Cam) 5, 10, 12, 25; 5. S. Cook (Ox) 5, 10, 12, 25; 6. K. Alenby (Sevens) 5, 10, 12, 25.

RUGBY UNION

Currie Cup: Semi-final: 35 Free State 20, Natal 19.

GYMNASTICS

BATH: British international women's team championships: 1. Pool B: Belgium 168.875; 2. South East 158.875; 3. West Midlands 165.750; 4. South 164.400.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement by Robert Sheehan.

LACROSSE advertisement for Motspur Park.

MODERN PENTATHLON advertisement for Bernardien School.

RUGBY UNION advertisement for Currie Cup.

GYMNASTICS advertisement for Bath.

TRINIDAD advertisement for Women's World Cup.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement by Raymond Keene.

Chess advertisement for Karpov suffering.

Chess advertisement for Queen's Indian Defence.

Chess advertisement for Diagram of final position.

Chess advertisement for Winning Move.

Chess advertisement for By Raymond Keene.

Jane's guide to making errors of judgment

Perhaps the dearest thing about *Prime Suspect 5* (which concluded last night on ITV) was its subtitle, *Errors of Judgment*, it was called — in direct reference to Helen Mirren's shortsighted decisions. Should she release young Campbell Lafferty from custody? No, she shouldn't. Should she sleep with her new boss? A big no. Should she wear beige on *Crimenight*? The consensus was again in the negative. But as the four hours of gripping telly came to a close last night, I began to wonder whether "errors of judgment" didn't conveniently cover too many aspects of this story. Every time someone behaved absurdly or illogically — such as when a second-division psycho threatened to murder Helen Mirren amid the litter of a deserted railway station ("Let's waste the bitch") — the alarm bells were too easily silenced. Wasting Jane Tennison would be just

stupid, you see. But instead of saying "That's just stupid!" you had to pursue your lips. "Och, bad error of judgment, son! Very bad error of judgment there!" It wasn't a bad story. Jane's need to identify the mole in her department became increasingly important, and Guy Andrews's script judged the revelation carefully, courteously allowing the audience to point the finger first (but only just). On the minus side, Jane's almost total obtuseness got boring. "He's behind yet!" said her assailant in the final scene — and the only surprising thing was that she didn't reply "Oh no he isn't". Searching for her mole, she lit on the ambitious but innocent Claire Devaney (Julia Lane, a Helen Baxendale lookalike) and looked no further. Interviewing suspects, she did it badly and endangered their lives. She boiled eggs and dropped them on the floor. One began to wonder whether she had

indeed slept her way to the top because as a police detective (and egg-boiler) she was rubbish. Significantly, she was known throughout this last *Prime Suspect* as "Jane" rather than "Tennison". A bad sign that she was losing her grip. Meanwhile Steven Mackintosh as "The Street" was rather good, though it took me four long hours to remember where ("Where?" I'd seen him before. It was *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. You can see why he was difficult to place, then: as Scrooge's nephew Fred, he neglected to "waste" Tiny Tim in a derelict swimming pool, thank goodness. To be scheduled against *Prime Suspect* was a rotten fate thoroughly undeserved by last night's *Cutting Edge* on Channel 4. *Birth of a Salesman* was a clever and humorous film on an unpromising subject: the evangelical indoctrination of a door-to-

REVIEW



door sales team. "Listen to the customer; people love to talk about themselves," said the team-leader, light shining in his eyes. "When people warn you, 'But I won't buy anything!' they are really saying 'I am easy to sell to.'" "People are tense when they say no. When they say yes, they relax!" What were they selling, these new recruits? We learnt all about the superlative patter first: the

brainwashing, and the big-buck motivation. If they were top salesmen, these chaps, they would one day date "Claudia Schiffer" (presumably like Claudia Schiffer only working at night in a supermarket). Cleverly, director Claudia Nye built up the viewer's interest in the product, just as these over-motivated saps were supposed to do. And after 20 minutes of slandering in anticipation ("Tell me what it is! 'I'll buy one!'") we were finally out of our misery. The product was revealed as a fancy vacuum-cleaner retailing at eight hundred quid. As each salesman stumbled and fell, Nye gave us a jaunty picture of green bottles falling off conveyor belts and smashing. Ten green bottles, you see? Nye's purpose was clearly not to weep for her featured wannabes. Instead, she was forgiveness transformed by the quasi-religious motivational lectures, especially the injunction

"Ditch the bitch", delivered by an alarming man who looked like a former astronaut. "Be ruthless with your environment," he told his pals. "Don't surround yourself with negativity. If your partner is negative, ditch the bitch." Waste the bitch: ditch the bitch. What a night for doing uncalculated things to Vets' School (BBC) where a golden retriever called Heidi was first treated for liver cancer. We had first met Heidi last week, and had heard the ominous "Bum, pling, pling" music which bemoaned sombre news. Sure enough, the bitch didn't make it, and I cried like a fool, as I always do. Meanwhile a horse called Jasper Carrott had a successful operation to remove a "hypoma" (don't ask; and we meta student vet called Steve who advanced (then retracted) some quaint theories about equal oppor-

unities. "Don't hire the bitch" was, alas, the main thrust. The Paul Merton Show (BBC) was largely unfunny, which was a shame, and added to an already existing worry. People are nowadays phoning helplines at night: "It's about Paul Merton, if only he would choose the right material!" Anyway, it was highly noticeable that the only laugh-out-loud piece in last night's "special" was the sketch in which Merton couldn't himself appear — viz. *Casablanca* as played by white bunny glove-puppets. "Play it, Sam," said a blank-faced white bunny glove-puppet. At which another white bunny glove-puppet (in a top hat) began to play a top piano with gusto in a hilarious stiff-armed fashion. But it only served to rub things in. Why the blank-faced, stiff-armed stuff isn't equally funny in a human being is Paul Merton's problem in a nutshell.

- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (29700)
- 7.00am BREAKFAST NEWS (Celefax) (10201)
- 9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (Celefax) (5280548)
- 9.20am STYLE CHALLENGE (2175483)
- 9.45 KILROY (2905464)
- 10.30am CANT COOK, WON'T COOK (16006)
- 11.00am NEWS and weather (6584843)
- 11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (7752261)
- 11.45 SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (1495071)
- 12.00am NEWS and weather (7128174)
- 12.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS Medical adventures (8505174)
- 12.50 FANCY THAT! (6568083)
- 1.00am NEWS and weather (20648)
- 1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (57031087)
- 1.40 NEIGHBOURS (4409200)
- 2.00 CALL MY BLUFF (4551) 2.30 THE TERRACE (396) 3.00 INCOGNITO (8218)
- 3.30 BRUM (9335938) 3.40 ROMUALD THE REMINDER (s) (6755687) 3.50 POPEYE (r) (4806759) 4.10 OSCAR'S ORCHESTRA (Celefax) (s) (6702087) 4.25 THE CHESTNUT HORSE (r) (Celefax) (s) (3787850) 5.00 NEWSROUND (2075483) 5.10 BYKER GROVE (8171087)
- 5.35 NEIGHBOURS (r) (Celefax) (716754)
- 6.00am NEWS and weather (975)
- 6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (377)
- 7.00 HOLIDAY Olivia Newton-John and her daughter take a riding holiday in Donegal. Toyah Wilcox flies to Bermuda for a weekend break; Sankha Ghata flies a late-availability holiday in Benidorm; and Jill Dando goes to Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva. (Celefax) (s) (5907)
- 8.00 EASTENDERS Lorraine has to ask Grant a difficult question and Tiffany loses up to her past. (Celefax) (s) (261)
- 8.00 999 LIFESAVERS True stories reconstructed with the rescuers involved (1087)
- 8.30 A QUESTION OF SPORT Ally McCoist, Steve Rodgrave and Valgaia Tulgamala versus John Parrott, Tessa Sanderson and Gary McAllister. (3822)
- 9.00 NEWS, REGIONAL NEWS and weather (Celefax) (4532)
- 9.30 AFTER THE BREAK Patrick Kelly presents adverts that use sex to sell. (Celefax) (s) (48193)
- 10.00 THE SUZUKI CRISIS Forthright anniversary commemoration of Britain's role. (Celefax) (3632822)
- 11.15 FILM: Eddie and the Cruisers (1983) A television reporter re-examines the disappearance of the leader of a successful 1960s rock band. Starring Tom Berenger and Michael Pare. Directed by Martin Davidson. (Celefax) (304377)
- 12.30am FILM: Sins of the Mother (1991) An outwardly normal and accomplished man has a hidden urge to commit patricide in reaction to his domineering mother. Starring Elizabeth Montgomery and Dale Midkiff. Directed by John Patterson. (229446)
- 2.15-2.20 WEATHER (8893304)

- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: CLAY AND THE SOCIAL WELD (710229) 6.25 FIRST STEPS TO AUTONOMY (7128667) 6.50 LEARNING FOR ALL: CHILDREN FIRST (978464)
- 7.15 BREAKFAST NEWS (646532)
- 7.30 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (4240613) 7.55 BLUE PETER (8472900) 8.20 FREEMAN SAM (1143396) 8.35 THE RECORD (833454) 9.00 STANDARD GRADE DESIGN (5271990) 9.20 THE RE COLLECTION (2173025) 9.45 WATCH (1524377) 10.00 PLAYDAYS (18633) 10.30 COME OUTSIDE (162648) 10.45 TEACHING TODAY (70209) 11.15 CLEMENS (9108613) 11.30 GNGV TV (3667) 12.00 SEE HEARI! (25700) 12.30pm WORKING LUNCH (53071) 1.00 TEACHING TODAY (11900) 1.30 SHOWCASE (5703629) 1.40 HOTCH POTCH (100) (s) (44039551) 2.00 FREEMAN SAM (18299445)
- 2.10 SNOOKER: GRAND PRIX (61674716) 6.00 FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR (r) (s) (785445)
- 6.25 HEARTBREAK HIGH (Celefax) (s) (683464)
- 7.10 THE O ZONE (s) (265071)
- 7.30 WE ARE (NOT) AMUSED The second of two programmes on royal satire. (r) (Celefax) (s) (803)
- 8.00 POUND FOR POUND Tonight's programme encourages us to search for savings certificates, stocks and bonds and unclaimed premium bond prizes. Plus an examination of pet insurance and shareholders' perks. (s) (9629)
- 8.30 ANTONIO CARLUCCIO'S ITALIAN FEAST Milan and Lombardy. Last in series (1464)
- 9.00 TIMEWATCH The Hungarian uprising, in 1956, as seen through the eyes of three men, Bela Liptak, Greg Pongratz and Imre Mecs, who fought against the Soviet occupation of their country. (21851)
- 9.50 TRADE SECRETS The last of the series. How colour can transform a room or corridor. (s) (761071)
- 10.00 HANCOCK The Cold (w) (s) (85759)
- 10.30 NEWSNIGHT (Celefax) (80443)
- 11.15 SNOOKER: GRAND PRIX Highlights from Bournemouth. (s) (74754)
- 11.55 WEATHER (804006)
- 12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (94120)
- 12.30am LEARNING ZONE: O-U: English Only in America? (54401) 1.00 The Golden Thread (61236) 1.30 An English Education (78014) 2.00 NightSchool TV: Access to Learning (95959) 4.00 BBC Focus: Teaching and Learning with IT (95507) 4.30 Film Education (42101) 5.00 Inside Europe (27304) 5.30-6.00 Film Education (32679)

TIMEWATCH: Cry Hungry BBC2, 9.00pm
The first of two 40th anniversary films (the other is *The Suz Crisis*, see below) looks back on the Hungarian people's uprising against their Soviet masters and the savage repression which followed. At the heart of the programme is a film made by the BBC ten years ago and drawing much of its impact from first-hand testimony. Jeremy Bennett, who also made tonight's *Suz* documentary, skillfully mixes this oral testimony with news footage to convey how hopes of freedom were briefly raised and brutally crushed. Three inside cameras in 1956 took part in the film gathering to watch and discuss what happened after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the aspirations of 40 years ago have finally been realised. Although the Russians have left and democracy has arrived, they give the new Hungary only a qualified welcome.

Witness: Living With the Enemy Channel 4, 9.00pm
The German occupation of the Channel Islands raised dilemmas of loyalty that those on the British mainland never had to face. More than 50 years afterwards, the subject is still sensitive. In this film people of Guernsey who lived through the war reflect on the realities of living with the German invader. Behaviour amongst the islanders ran the gamut from resistance to collaboration, with every shade in between. The film is mainly concerned with the shades, the fraternisation which stopped far short of treachery. Evocatively directed by Michael Gregely, *Living With the Enemy* seeks to explain rather than to condemn. At its heart is the testimony of Dolly, who fell in love with a German soldier and had a child by him. That her story has been told before on television does not lessen its impact.

The Suz Crisis BBC1, 10.00pm
Jeremy Bennett's film about the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt and its humiliating aftermath is a fair and careful account which scores a lucid path through a complex sequence of events. As well as giving the political and diplomatic story it includes first-hand accounts of the fighting from British, French and Egyptian soldiers. This is not a work of revisionism. Sir Anthony Eden's determination to smash the upstart Nasser without the approval or knowledge of the United States appears as misconceived as ever. As for collusion between Britain, France and Israel, which Eden publicly denied, this is spelled out by the programme's scope, the text of a secret protocol signed by the three powers and discovered in an Israeli archive. Otherwise the most telling image is of President Eisenhower, seething with anger at being left in the dark.

Network First: Cut Price Package ITV, 10.40pm
Nine British women travel to Poland where bigger bras, lighter stomachs and other body enhancements are available five times cheaper than at home. There is the chance that it could all go wrong but with facilities costing only £800, and liposuction a snip at £400, it is too good a bargain to miss. The packages are arranged by Alina Dobie, Polish-born but living near Chester, and include hair, teeth, diet, exercise and food. An enjoyable, mildly voyeuristic glimpse at the women from last-minute packing to arrival in Wrocław and the surgery which they hope will transform their lives. But the trip gets off to a tense start. The surgeon becomes tired through overwork, tenners flare and Alina has to be treated for high blood pressure. Lesley Joseph, of *Birds of a Feather*, narrates. Peter Waymark

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VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1
7.00am Love Connection (647917) 7.30am News Line (207950) 7.40am Jeopardy! (203808) 8.10am Wheel (955638) 8.30am Another World (117106) 8.45 The Open Winner Show (204251) 9.00am Real TV (916500) 11.10am Sally Jessy Raphael (523678) 12.00am Countdown (82000) 1.00pm The Chase (40298) 2.00pm The Price Is Right (40957) 4.00pm The Carolee Show (86174) 5.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (3494) 6.00pm The New Adventures of Beany from Meatsville (1413) 7.30pm MASH (2551) 8.00pm Springfield (7013) 8.30pm Under Unwatched (8620) 9.00pm Law and Order (29919) 9.30pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (29003) 11.00pm The New Adventures of Beany from Meatsville (1413) 12.00am Star Trek: Voyager (11071)

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SKY NEWS
Weekdays news coverage, with bulletins on every 30 minutes, seven days a week

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THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Rita Rita: The Heat of the West (1959) (41121) 7.30am Over the Top (1959)

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THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Rita Rita: The Heat of the West (1959) (41121) 7.30am Over the Top (1959)

SKY 1
7.00am Love Connection (647917) 7.30am News Line (207950) 7.40am Jeopardy! (203808) 8.10am Wheel (955638) 8.30am Another World (117106) 8.45 The Open Winner Show (204251) 9.00am Real TV (916500) 11.10am Sally Jessy Raphael (523678) 12.00am Countdown (82000) 1.00pm The Chase (40298) 2.00pm The Price Is Right (40957) 4.00pm The Carolee Show (86174) 5.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (3494) 6.00pm The New Adventures of Beany from Meatsville (1413) 7.30pm MASH (2551) 8.00pm Springfield (7013) 8.30pm Under Unwatched (8620) 9.00pm Law and Order (29919) 9.30pm Star Trek: The Next Generation (29003) 11.00pm The New Adventures of Beany from Meatsville (1413) 12.00am Star Trek: Voyager (11071)

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BASEBALL 48

New boy Jones puts Yankees to sword

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1996

GOLF 50

Woods blazes trail for new generation



Interest high in QPR forward

Sinclair heads Tottenham's shopping list

By Peter Ball and Richard Hobson

THE chase for Trevor Sinclair, the Queens Park Rangers forward, intensified yesterday with Everton, Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur signalling their interest...

In the meantime, Tottenham were the most forthcoming after revealing that their attempt to sign Emmanuel Petit, the AS Monaco and France defender, had failed...

manoeuvres in the Coca-Cola Cup final victory over Leeds. Doug Ellis, the chairman, confirmed that two Italian clubs, including Perugia, had expressed an interest in Milosevic...



Sinclair: £5m price-tag

QPR do not have a scheduled board meeting until early November, but there were suggestions yesterday that they might consider the request before that...

Leeds, who have been linked with Sinclair for some time, and Everton are likely to be prepared to meet that figure...

Leeds, too, are certain to try very hard to sign Sinclair. Their performance at Aston Villa on Saturday was described by George Graham...

Savo Milosevic could leave Aston Villa just seven months after his outstanding performance through the sale of Mijosevic...



Richard Attwood gives his son, Bruce, a few tips before he competes in the Elf Fastrack finals at Silverstone

Attwood aiming for the big time

By John Goodbody

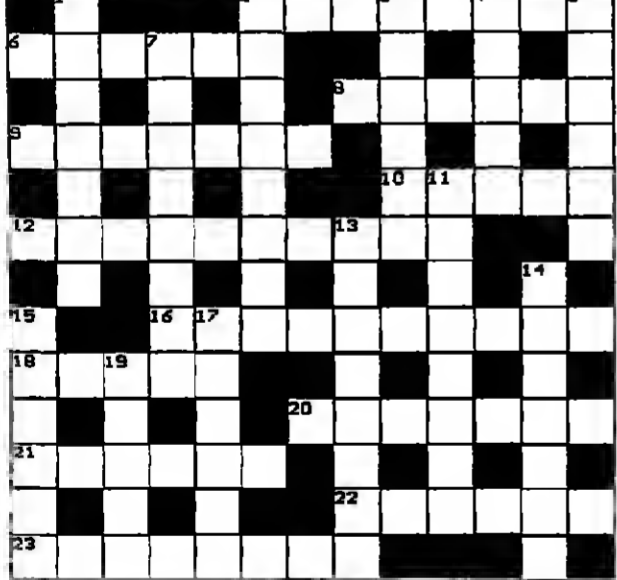
IT IS NOT only Damon Hill who is following in his father's car tracks. When Graham Hill, father of the new Formula One world champion...

names who were protégés through this system, including Prost. Williams said, "If the right man arrives through the scheme, he will emerge as a world championship candidate."

competition. He is quite reserved and likes to keep things to himself. The only time he really talks about racing is when he is with friends at events such as the British Grand Prix.

Attwood Sr, who won Le Mans in 1970, said of his son's attempt: "He's a good road driver and wanted to have a go to see where he is. I believe he should look at this week as something for enjoyment and experience."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



- ACROSS: 2 House-buying loan (5), 8 Fairground game (6), b School absconder (6), 9 Thrift (7), 10 Skillful (5), 12 Nose kept to it by the busy (10), 16 The enemy personified (6,4), 18 Pipes; valves (5), 20 This heaven the ultimate (7), 21 Decay; rankle (6), 22 Decorative tuft (6), 23 And so on (2,6)

SOLUTION TO NO 918: ACROSS: 1 Kents 4 Siderac 8 Ambiguous 9 Mob 10 Kim 11 Immediate 12 Kanji 13 Abbey 16 Newsagent 18 Air 20 Dot 21 Telegraphic 22 Munched 23 Dryad

Campese reaches century

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

DAVID CAMPESE will follow Philippe Sella into the record books tomorrow when he makes his hundredth international appearance for Australia, against Italy, in Padova...

regarded as one of the world's great centres, on the other, Greg Smith, the Australia coach, believes Horan's broken-field running will gain greater expression from the wing...

Money for nothing appeals to Lewis

By Sri Kumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

LENNOX LEWIS, the British heavyweight, could be in line for another big payment from Don King - once again for doing nothing...

HOWZAT! You can have hair as good as this... and it really works.



"OWZAT for a transformation" Daily Mirror "Gooch's hair looks extremely good" Daily Telegraph "I look like I did 10 years ago" The Sun

Smith loses grip on putter issue

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

DO YOU love 'em or hate 'em? In golf, there are few half measures and few players who do not have a strong opinion about them. You are either for the long-handled putter that has transformed the career of Sam Torrance...

Advertisement for Advanced Hair Studio, featuring Graham Gooch and contact information for various locations.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially obscured and containing various text and graphics.

Uzbek warlord turns mediator and presents proposal for ceasefire

Embattled Taleban weighs deal for Afghan power share

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

A CEASEFIRE could be in the making between forces fighting for control of Kabul, the Afghan capital. Taleban, the Islamic militia that captured the city three weeks ago, said last night it was ready to deal with its enemies — a rare hint at compromise.

Uzbek warlord whose troops and heavy weapons have moved south to support the forces of the former Government, positioned about ten miles north of the city. Taleban has repeatedly refused to negotiate with the old Government: that has been overcome by General Dostum acting as negotiator for both armies.

Any suspension of fighting would offer a chance to negotiate a longer ceasefire; Pakistani mediators are trying to persuade all sides to enter talks. United Nations peace efforts are overshadowed by the Pakistani initiative, to the annoyance of Norbert Holl, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, had some startling observations about Taleban's ignorance of international procedures. Its leaders knew a lot about fighting but little about world or economic factors, he said.



Masood: won support of Dostum's forces

General Dostum has proposed the demilitarisation of Kabul to enable peace negotiations to begin, but Mullah Mohammed Mutaqi, Information and Culture Minister for Taleban, claimed, astonishingly, that the city was already demilitarised and in the hands of the police. That does not tally with the daily test-firing of heavy guns, which continued yesterday.



Taleban fighters march through Hussein Kot village, north of Kabul, after retaking it

Chechen rebel leader gives Russians ten days to pull out

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN NOVYE ATAGI

CHECHNYA'S rebel President, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, gave a warning yesterday that the war in his republic could reignite if Moscow did not withdraw all of its forces by the end of this month. He also regretted the sacking of Aleksandr Lebed as Moscow's special envoy to Chechnya, but said he was relying on the Russians to stick by the peace agreement signed in August.

bed, a fellow military man, when they met at negotiations, and said the general did "everything possible to stop this war". But Mr Rybkin was, "small change". "A person who started this war will never end it."

"If just one Russian soldier stays here it means the war has not finished," Mr Yandarbiyev told The Times in an interview at his headquarters, ten miles south of Grozny.

The southern half of Chechnya is now completely under his control. Not a single Russian checkpoint remains and armed fighters moved around unhindered. Cars and buildings sport the green, white and red flag of independent Chechnya.

General Lebed's peace agreement is continuing to be implemented, with what is a much more rapid troop pull-out than the one from Afghanistan in the late 1990s.

"Can you deny that we are an independent state or do you feel this is part of Russia?" asked Mr Yandarbiyev. His problem is that he may be eclipsed by his chief military commander, Aslan Maskhadov.

But a clash appears to be imminent over the future of the 101st and 205th brigades. Moscow says they are "permanently deployed" in Chechnya and not subject to the pullout. Mr Yandarbiyev said he expected all forces, including those brigades, to leave by the end of this month. Their continued presence, he said, would be a provocation and he could not answer for the consequences.



RUSSIAN FEDERATION, Grozny, North Ossetia, CHECHNYA, Dagestan, GEORGIA

Kabul's de luxe delights: corn flakes and boiled insects

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

KABUL is a smugglers' town, an Aladdin's Cave of music systems, foreign groceries, cheap watches and, in extreme profusion, some of the world's leading cigarette brands. For beleaguered Britons here craving basic essentials like Heinz baked beans and Mars bars, there are well-stocked shops on Chicken Street.

still adorned with such delights as Kellogg's corn flakes and Cadbury's chocolate — alas, white and crumbling with age — smuggled through Pakistan and Central Asia. A day or two after the Mujahidin invaded on that Saturday in spring, I watched a British television journalist standing forlornly in the middle of Chicken Street as a gunman opened the boot of his taxi and discovered lots of French wine. These were removed and smashed with much ceremony.

limb under Taleban rule. Even the most famous bootlegger of old, known by the code-name The Chinaman, sticks these days to selling Indian tuna fish, canned fruit juice from the Middle East and the occasional jar of caviar. The carpet shops in Chicken Street do a middling trade from aid workers and itinerant journalists descending for the occasional big story. These traders are desperate enough to accept a personal cheque for their rugs. They say they are rarely cheated: when they are, the gully man or woman is liable to receive a visit at home in Europe or

the United States from an expatriate Afghan relative seeking payment. When not at Chicken Street or hurling around the front line in decrepit taxis, throngs of journalists crash on the floors of houses occupied by hospitable Kabul-based correspondents. The fortunate ones who landed early commandeered rooms at the German Club. The club, which most of the time is empty, has cleared its little theatre and turned it into a dormitory. At night there are snoring bodies in the snooker room and even on the sofas in the dining room.

redecorated and the Afghan painters found a nice picture in a cupboard, which they put on the wall. It was Hitler inspecting his troops: the maoogers returned it hurriedly to its dark home. The German Club cooks do well, given their limited resources, but cauliflower is always served with boiled insects.

The alternative eatery is the United Nations Staff House, the heart of Kabul gossip, where the cooks do rather better. I heard yesterday that somebody had acquired a bottle of Black Label, but it is only a rumour. I value my right hand too much to inquire further.

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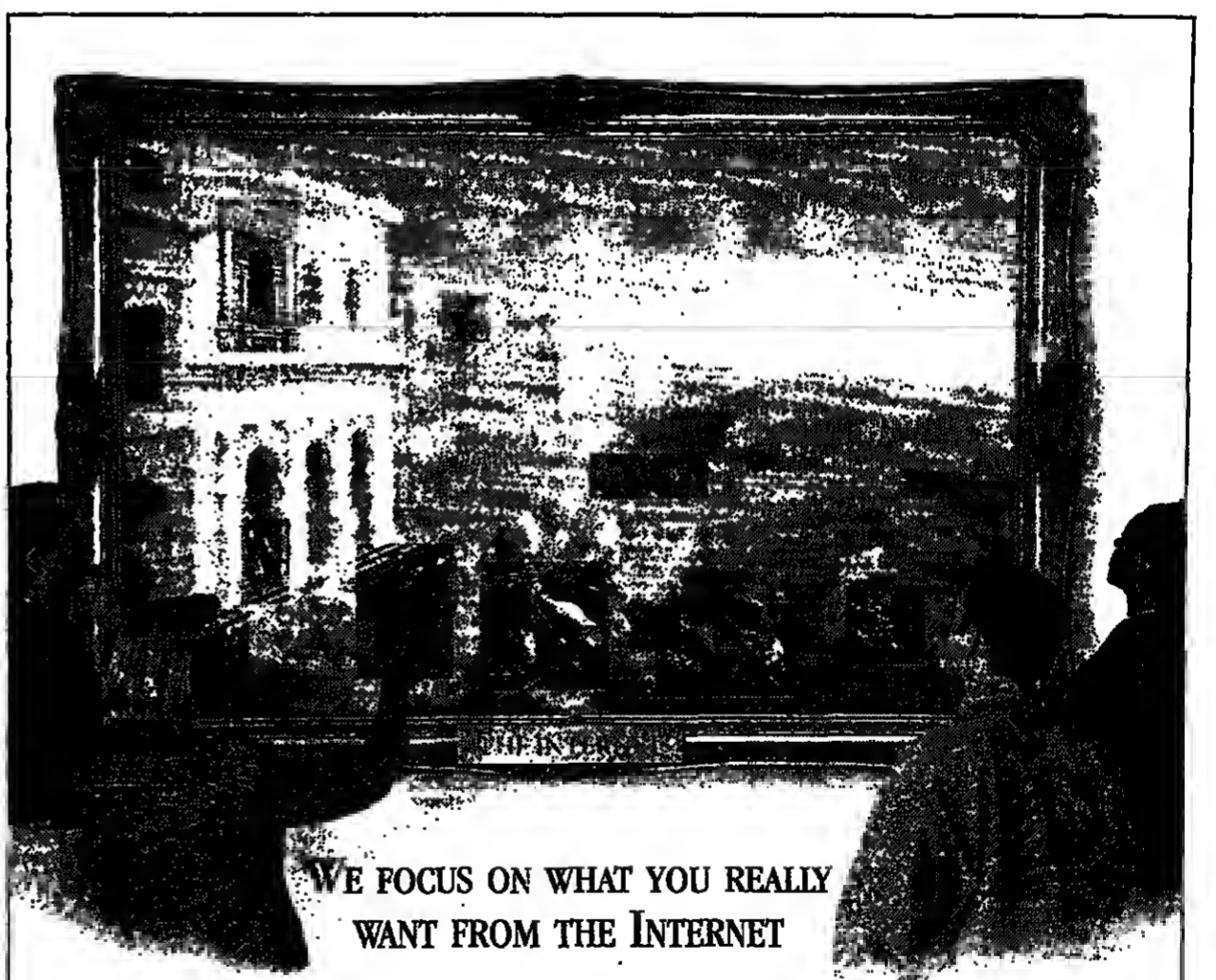
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I was a child sex abuse victim

Abused as a child, Peter Saunders has decided to 'come out' to help others. Interview by Heather Kirby

Peter Saunders, a lecturer in economics at Ealing College of Education, appears to be a cheerful, outgoing sort of person but inside he is still an unhappy child, haunted by vile memories and tortured by guilt. He was seriously sexually abused three or four times a week by a friend of his family from the age of eight until, at 13, he finally found the courage to say no.

Then he abused me emotionally and psychologically which I think, in the long term, has had a far worse effect on me," Mr Saunders says. He has decided to "come out" about his abuse because, when he needed to unburden himself, he could find no one who would listen. He now intends to set up an organisation to help other adults who were abused when they were children.

His childhood trauma exploded last year when his father was dying. "I realised, now he was on his deathbed, that I would never be able to tell him what happened, and I wanted to do so much. That made me incredibly angry. I was angry about being brought up in a household where I could not talk about a thing like that. My father was strict, a disciplinarian, but he wasn't cruel and I'm sure, if I had told him, he would have gone to the police like a shot. I felt sad I'd not been able to talk to him about it.

"All the family was around the deathbed and when it came to organising my father's funeral I blurted out, 'That bastard isn't coming and if he does, I'm not'. That's when I told them what had happened to me when I was a child. Another young male member of the family said that he had also been abused, by the same person, but he was reluctant to talk about it. He wanted to forget it and is now upset with me for bringing it all out into the open.

"No one else reacted the way I wanted them to instead of sympathy, my telling them about the abuse has torn our family apart. They have turned on me and won't speak to me. After that I thought I would never be able to tell another soul."

Peter Saunders's evidence, and

that of other individuals and organisations, will be made public today when the National Commission of Inquiry into the Prevention of Child Abuse publishes its findings. Part of his experiences will be relayed on a video because, a spokeswoman for the commission explains: "It is very painful for people to speak repeatedly about their distressing experiences."

The national commission, funded by the NSPCC, was launched in August 1994 to examine a broad range of public and specialist evidence about the causes of child abuse, and how it can be prevented.

Recently Peter Saunders met other survivors and has started

you into college — his school. He managed it somehow — my family thought he was doing me a huge favour — but they were the worst days of my life. He was head of the PE department and would gawp at me in the showers. He made remarks like: 'You are not going to interest any of the girls with that.'"

For a 14-year-old it was devastating. Then, when I fell in love with a French girl, he said I had no hope, she'd never fall for a 'thickie' like me."

Shortly after his father's funeral, Saunders rang Childline, but they could not help because they deal only with children. When he rang the NSPCC the response was the same. "It seemed as if there was no

one to turn to. I went to the police but they were not interested, because the crime happened more than 20 years ago. My one tiny bit of revenge was going to his school and making a statement. Although he denied it, he subsequently resigned, so he is finished as a teacher."

Some experts think that as many as one in five children are abused — if you include, for instance, the belittling

of children by adults in the category of abuse — and most agree on a figure of at least one in ten. Elspeth Kemp, a consultant clinical psychologist for North Lakeland Health Care, says: "Children cope with abuse at the time by splitting off their emotions. Amazingly, they can remember, 30 or 40 years later, everything as if it were yesterday. The sudden urge to talk about it can be triggered when they find themselves as adults in a situation of powerlessness. As children they could not cope with what was happening to them, but when they are adults they can use adult resources to deal with it."

Peter Saunders now lives apart from his wife and two children of nine and seven, although he sees them every other weekend. "I have been unhappy for much of my life without knowing why. After my father's death I became seriously depressed, but now I feel very positive. The one thing that bastard gave me is an ability to empathise with victims of child abuse."



Peter Saunders

'No one reacted to it the way I wanted them to'



Carla Powell (above); with her newly honoured husband Sir Charles Powell, and (right), leading Labour hostess, Gail Rebeck



Pamela Harriman: chateleine of the US Embassy in Paris



Return of the political hostesses

The political hostess is back. Michael Gove on the renaissance of a much missed breed

Pamela Harriman, mother of the Tory MP Winston Churchill, and now chateleine of the US Embassy in Paris. During the 1980s in Britain, however, the hostess was knocked off her trolley by the onward march of *la Thatcher*. Feminine fixers were eclipsed by the woman who preferred to lead a party instead of giving one. Elegant ladies who found their invitations unanswered knew what Thatcher meant when she said she believed there was "no such thing as Society".

But now the hostess is back. Carla Powell is the most prominent of the new generation of political hostesses, powerful women who preside over salons where business and pleasure are as intoxicatingly intermingled as gin and vermouth in a Martini.

Since Eve introduced Adam to a valuable contact in the serpent world the hostess has been as much part of politics as the broken promise and the greased palm. The great political battles of the 18th century between the Whig playboy Fox and the Tory prig Pitt have captured academic imaginations but, more fascinating by far was the struggle between the rival hostesses, Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, the Whig coquette, and the Duchess of Gordon, the Tory dragon.

Amanda Foreman, the historian whose biography of Georgiana is published by HarperCollins next year, argues: "In the 18th century the political and social elites were interchangeable. Most real politics took place at social events and decisions of great importance were made more often in country houses than the House of Commons."

Georgiana's successors in this century have included Lady Londonderry in the 1920s, nicknamed "Circe" by her bewitched admirers, and in the 1950s Ann Fleming, wife of the sado-masochistic spy author Ian. Perhaps the most impressive of the modern models has been the American

age Street loaned by Alistair McAlpine.

One regular guest, William Sitwell, says: "An invitation to a Euro-sceptic gathering used to be about as sought after as a night on the tiles with Mother Teresa but Biddy changed that. An important battle which could seem boring became sexy."

Barbara Amiel prefers discreet dinners in her Chelsea home with literary lionesses sprinkled among the politicians and businessmen. Although both Canadians, she and her husband are as much part of London's political scene as the Queen's Speech.

Tessa Keswick, who once worked as Ken Clarke's Conservative conscience, now runs the Centre for Policy Studies. As well as a midwife to ideas, she is also a matchmaker for talent. Tessa takes as many pains with her guests as the Treasury does with its figures. She sprinkles her handsome aristocratic relatives, such as the model Honor Fraser or the biographer Flora, in with grand business types such as Sir Ronnie Griersson and coming men such as Tory pamphleteer Edward Heathcoat-Amory.

A Blair government might mean changes, but it wouldn't see any decline in the power of the hostess. Unlike the more formal dinners of their Tory rivals, the hostesses of the Left prefer the unstructured bonhomie of the buffet. In a rare nod towards *laissez-faire*, guests are encouraged to mingle rather than be subject to a central plan. It's a case of *New Labour*, No Placement.

The two leading new Labour hostesses are Gail Rebeck, chief executive at publishers Random House and wife of shadowy strategist Philip Gould, and the radical barrister, Helena Kennedy. The guest lists at either's events overlap — with figures such as Geoff Robertson, QC, almost as in demand as Cherie Booth. Media figures such as Melvyn Bragg and Clive Hollick and City socialist Gavyn Davies are likely to be comparing notes while the hostess ensures that the only dangerous red is the Argentine merlot.

White ambition still lurks in politicians' breasts there will be a place for the hostess, as there is for the mistress — but the former remains, in her role as the lubricant of the democratic machine, an altogether good thing and worth raising a succession of glasses to.

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New Zealand	66p	130p
Nigeria	66p	130p
Norway	66p	130p
Oman	66p	130p
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Panama	66p	130p
Peru	66p	130p
Philippines	66p	130p
Portugal	66p	130p
Qatar	66p	130p
Romania	66p	130p
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Syria	66p	130p
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In the second of two excerpts from his collected essays, the poet Joseph Brodsky attempts to persuade an audience of American college students of his belief that only through learning to value boredom can we truly appreciate life

But should you fail to keep your kingdom And, like your father before you come Where thought accuses and feeling mocks. Believe your pain... — W.H. Auden, Alonso and Ferdinand

In praise of boredom

Known under several aliases — anguish, ennui, tedium, doldrums, humdrum, the blahs, apathy, listlessness, stolidity, lethargy, languor, accidie, etc — boredom is a complex phenomenon and, by and large, a product of repetition. It would seem, then, that the best remedy against it would be constant inventiveness and originality. Alas, life's main medium is precisely repetition. One may argue, of course, that repeated attempts at originality and inventiveness are the vehicle of progress and civilisation. As benefits of hindsight go, however, this one is not the most valuable. For should we divide the history of our species by scientific discoveries, not to mention ethical concepts, we will get, technically speaking, centuries of boredom. The very notion of originality or innovation spells out the monotony of standard reality, of life, whose main idiom isedium.

In that, life differs from art, whose worst enemy is cliché. On the whole, art treats boredom in a self-defensive, satirical fashion. The only way art can become a solace from boredom is if you yourselves become artists. But even should you march out in full force to typewriters, easels and Steinway grands, you won't shield yourselves from boredom entirely. If repetitiveness is boredom's mother, you, young and jewfangled, will be quickly smothered by lack of recognition and low pay, both chronic in the world of art. But the other trouble with originality and inventiveness is that they pay off. If you are capable of either, you will become well off rather fast. Desirable as that may be, nobody is as bored as the rich, for money buys time, and time is repetitive.

Everything that displays a pattern is pregnant with boredom. That applies to money in more ways than one, both to the banknotes as such and to possessing them. That is not to bill poverty, of course, as an escape from boredom. All one can suggest is to be a bit more apprehensive of money, for the zeros in your accounts may usher in their mental equivalents. As for poverty, boredom is the

most brutal part of its misery, and the departure from it takes more radical forms: of violent rebellion or drug addiction. In general, a man shooting heroin into his vein does so largely for the same reason you buy a video: to dodge the redundancy of time. On the whole, the difference in tacitly between a syringe's needle and a stereo's push button roughly corresponds to that between the acuteness and dullness of time's impact upon the have-nots and the haves. In short, whether rich or poor, sooner or later you will be afflicted by this redundancy of time. Potential haves, you'll be bored with your work, your friends, your spouses, your lovers, the view from your window, the furniture or wallpaper in your room, your thoughts, yourselves. Accordingly, you'll try to devise ways of escape. You may take up changing jobs, residence, company, country, climate; you may take up promiscuity, alcohol, travel, cooking lessons, drugs, psychoanalysis.

For a while that may work. Until the day, of course, when you wake up in your bedroom amid a new family and a different wallpaper, in a different state and climate, with a heap of bills from your travel agent and your stunk, yet with the same stale feeling toward the light of day pouring through your window. Depending on your temperament or the age you are, you will either panic or resign yourself to the familiarity of the sensation; or else you'll go through the rigmarole of change once more. There is yet another way out of it, however. Those of you who have read Robert Frost's *Servant to Servants* may remember a line of his: *The best way out is always through*. So what

I am about to suggest is a variation on the theme. When hit by boredom, go for it. In general, with things unpleasant, the rule is, the sooner you hit bottom, the faster you surface. The idea here, in paraphrase another great poet of the English language, is to exact full look at the worst. The reason boredom deserves such scrutiny is that it represents time in all its repetitive, redundant, monotonous splendour. Boredom is your window on time's infinity, which is to say, on your insignificance in it. Once this window opens, don't try to shut it; on the contrary, throw it wide open. For boredom is to teach you the most valuable lesson in your life — the lesson of your utter insignificance. "You are finite," time tells you in a voice of boredom, "and whatever you do is, from my point of view, futile." The sense of futility, of limited significance even of your best, most ardent actions, is better than the illusion of their consequences and the attendant self-aggrandisement. For boredom is an invasion of time into your set of values. It puts your existence into its perspective. The more you learn about your own size, the more humble and the more compassionate you become to your likes, to the flecks of dust in a sunbeam or atop your table. You are to those flecks what time is to you; that's why they look so small. And do you know what the dust says when it's being wiped off the table? *Remember me, whispers the dust.* "I have quoted these lines by the German poet Peter Huchel because I, like them, because I recognise myself in them. "Remember me," says the dust." And one hears in this that if we learn about ourselves

from time, perhaps time, in turn, may learn something from us. What would that be? That inferior in significance, we best it in sensitivity. This is what it means — to be insignificant. If it takes will-paralysing boredom to bring this home, then hail the boredom. You are insignificant because you are finite. Yet the more finite a thing is, the more it is charged with life, emotions, joy, fears, compassion. For infinity is not terribly lively, not terribly emotional. Your boredom is the boredom of infinity. Respect it for its origins — as much perhaps as for your own. Because it is the anticipation of that inanimate infinity that accounts for the intensity of human sentiments, often resulting in a conception of a new life. This is not to say that you have been conceived out of boredom, or that the finite breeds the finite. It is to suggest, rather, that passion is the privilege of the insignificant.


Passion, above all, is a remedy against boredom. Another one, of course, is pain — physical more so than psychological, passion's frequent aftermath; although I wish you neither. Still, when you hurt you know that at least you have not been deceived (by your body or by your psyche). By the same token, what is good about boredom is that it is not a deception. Try to embrace, or let yourself be embraced by, boredom and anguish. Endure it as long as you can, and then some more. Do not think you have goofed somewhere along the line, don't try to retrace your steps to correct the error. As the poet said, "Believe your pain." This awful bear hug is no mistake. Nothing that disturbs you is. Remember, there is no embrace in this world that won't finally unclasp. I wish you nothing but happiness. Still, there will be plenty of dark and dull hours. You ought to be fortified against that in some fashion; and that's what I've tried to do here. For what lies ahead is a remarkable but wearisome journey; you are boarding today, as it were, a runaway train. No one can tell you what lies ahead, least of all those who remain behind. One thing, however, they can assure you of is that it is not a round trip. Try to derive some comfort from the notion that no matter how unpalatable this or that station may turn out to be, the train doesn't stop there for good.

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Boredom can teach you the most valuable lesson in your life — the lesson of your utter insignificance



Looking good and Kwai ACE

Eighteen months ago I took a deep breath and moved on to start a new career, in another part of the country. Quite an upheaval, but I knew I was ready for a fresh challenge.

Busy is not the word - there's been a lot of socialising with work, finding and decorating the flat has meant some late nights, and I wasn't cooking properly for myself.

One day I realised - work's coming right, the flat's looking great - but look at me!


So first it was the new diet (goodbye to all those fatty foods) and then starting regular exercise. I bought a bike - now I cycle to work every day. I also tried Kwai ACE. It's a supplement that could help keep my heart healthy, by combining garlic's benefits with added vitamins A, C and E. The ACE vitamins are antioxidants that help protect the body's tissues against free radicals.

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Hungary for freedom, or just hungry?

Forty years on, George Fischer recalls the Hungarian uprising

It was spontaneous and bloody. Some say it was a magnificent defeat; others say it was a striking example of the Hungarians' longstanding propensity to suicidal futility. Hungary gained the admiration of the West and incurred the wrath of the Kremlin and the Red Army. The 1956 uprising left its mark on history, but what of its aspirations? Are they relevant today?

In retrospect, the road to October 1956 is clearly discernible: having occupied Hungary in 1945, the Soviet Union installed the arch-Stalinist regime of Matyas Rakosi, whose rule generated enormous misery, frustration and anger. Stalin's death in 1953 and Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin in February 1956 speeded up the ferment within the Communist parties of Central Europe, particularly in Poland and Hungary. Card-carrying intellectuals became vociferous in their condemnation of the Stalinists. Critical voices rose in the public at large, and in October, university students in Szeged and Budapest put their demands on paper: redressing the wrongs of the Rakosi regime, the withdrawal of Soviet troops, and free elections.

1956 was about ideals; 1996 is about groceries

They called for a demonstration of solidarity with the Polish reformers on the afternoon of October 23. By the evening, Stalin's gigantic statue — which, in the words of a Hungarian novelist, "sodomised the skyline" — had been pulled down. By dawn, Soviet tanks were on the streets of Budapest. The fight was on. Small, uncoordinated groups with the single aim of getting rid of the Russians took to the Soviet armour. There was nothing more exhilarating than to follow *Ruszkik hazal* — "Russians go home!" Fear and fury are, as I found, a potent combination.

Patchy official Hungarian and Soviet records of the period reveal indecisiveness, reaction rather than action, until October 31, when the minutes of the Praesidium record Khrushchev deciding against withdrawal, because "it would encourage the American, British and French imperialists... In addition to Egypt we would hand them Hungary as well." Next day, the Soviet high command sanctioned Operation Whirlwind. The Hungarian Government, by then led by Imre Nagy, a Moscow-trained Communist turned reformer, went through condemnation, acceptance and finally support for the uprising.

At dawn on November 4, nearly 60,000 Soviet troops began Operation Whirlwind. Within days, armed resistance was crushed. More than 2,500 died and about 20,000 were wounded. Parts of the capital lay in ruins. Of the Russian soldiers, 700 were killed and perhaps 1,500 were wounded. More than 200,000 people fled a country of ten million inhabitants. Khrushchev put Janos Kadar in charge of the country, and redistribution began: 20,000 people were imprisoned, 230 were hanged.

By the late 1960s, however, a combination of economic reforms and relatively liberal social and political measures had improved living standards, and "goulash communism" was about to be established. Hungary took advantage of the almost complete de-Stalinisation of the Soviet bloc and became the leading economic reformer. By the late 1980s, it was also leading political reform — so much so that the party relinquished power and submitted itself to the democratic will in 1990.

After a 34-year hiatus, Hungary again stood on the threshold of democracy and independence, this time through a properly conducted election and with offers of substantial material help from America and the European Community. The Christian Democrat coalition Government saw the departure of Soviet troops, but it was inadequate to the intricate task of establishing a market economy without alienating its electoral majority. Nor did it manage to make a dent in the most insidious legacy of 40-odd years of Communist rule: corruption and mendacity. Dishonesty remains a tool of survival.

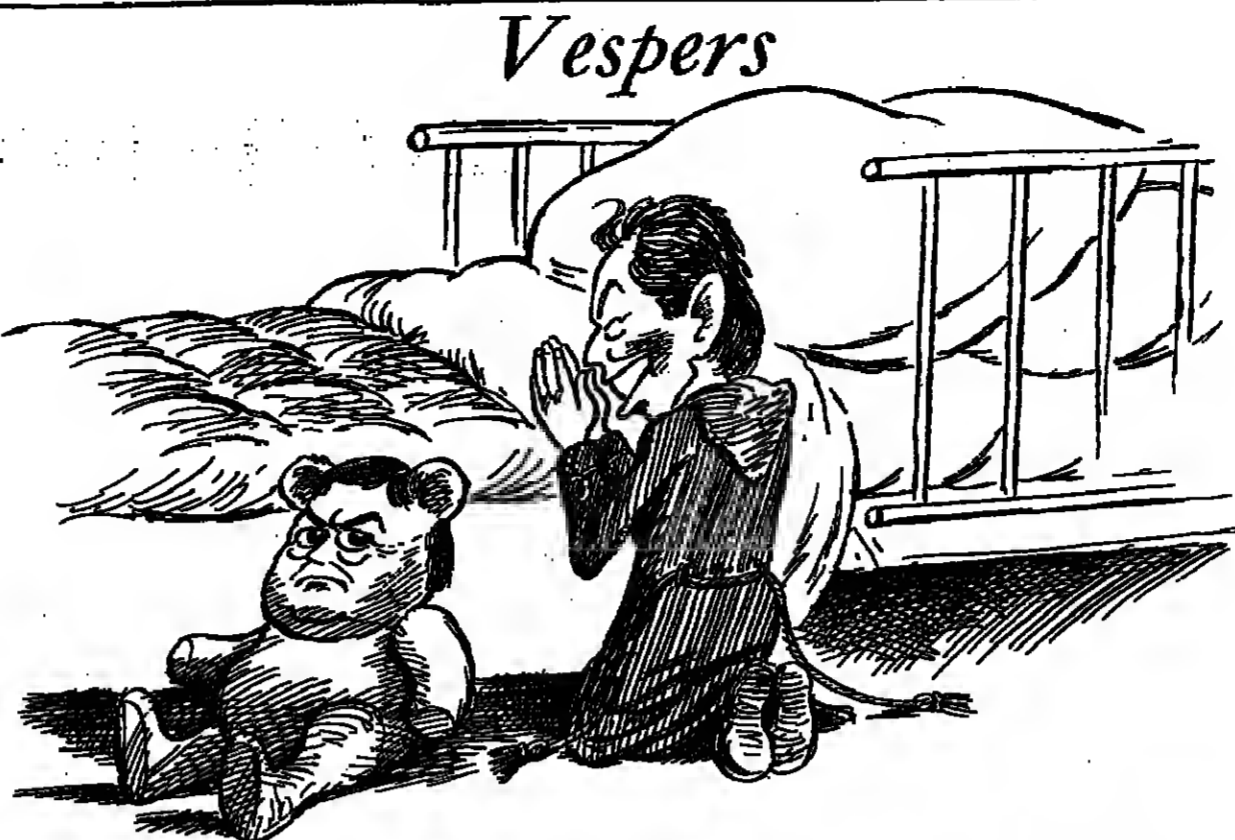
Yet this mentality briefly vanished during the uprising. There was no looting. Complete strangers provided food and shelter for the needy and looked after the casualties — as if someone had thrown a switch which triggered common decency. That decency perished before the Soviet tanks.

In 1994, the refashioned remnants of the Communists, the Hungarian Socialist Party, headed by the diminutive Gyula Horn, won the democratic contest by a landslide, with a manifesto that was a model of how to meet the preoccupations of a disillusioned electorate.

The 1956 uprising was sudden and too short-lived to generate well thought-out political programmes. Independence, neutrality and democracy were the common impulses of the vast majority. Hungary is now independent. Neutrality is forgotten. To join the EU and Nato has become a talisman of national vitality. The Hungarian People's Republic is dead. Long live the democratic Hungarian Republic, a callow democracy, but a working one.

Ironically, most of those now in government and in key industrial and commercial positions used to be stalwarts of the communist regime in its later years, and the opposition parties even talk about restoration. I think they have a point. But probably the majority of the electorate, whose living standards have fallen steadily since 1990 and who have not yet found their feet in a market economy, couldn't care less about the administration, so long as it improves their lot. This is why the uprising has so little relevance today: 1956 was about ideals, 1996 is about groceries.

The author fled from Hungary in 1956.



Little Boy kneads at the foot of the bed, Droops on the little hands little gold head. Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares! The Party Leader is saying his prayers.

God bless the Party, our Lords and MPs, Constituency workers who try hard to please. God bless the don't-knows, help them to see, Don't bless the other lot, God bless ME.

22 X 96

Alan Brooke (a long way after A.A. Milne & E.H. Shepherd)

Prisoners of stupidity

Custodial sentences must become a last resort — and a constructive one

What Frances Lawrence says is true: the murder of her husband, Philip, is more than a personal tragedy and poses more than a logistical problem. It faced us, that dreadful December day, not with some simple practical need to fiddle around with knife amnesty and school security, but with clear alternatives: what Mrs Lawrence called "chaos and disintegration" or coherence and common morality.

Listening to the 16-year-old killer did nothing to remove that sense of chaos. Learco Chindamo lived for his only identity, the gang; he had a spiritually impoverished home life, made an idol of a violent father and was calmly playing pool as his victim died. Mrs Lawrence is a remarkable and humane woman, and felt "no pleasure to see a young life locked away", but only an overwhelming sadness that Chindamo knew no better. Her husband, she has said with sad irony, would have wanted to help such a boy. After her dreadful loss, and her children's, she still believes in individual redemption.

It is that humanity which gives me the nerve to respond to Mrs Lawrence's words not only with an endorsement of her general ideas, but with something which at first sight seems incongruous: a plea for penal reform. In horrible cases, it may greatly relieve our feelings to lock people up; but it does no good at all until we also confront our communal responsibility for what happens next.

We have custody of this miserable youth now: we have imprisoned him, first in Feltham and now in the adult system. We control what happens to him, and to us when he is let out. We have 57,320 similar responsibilities, from Rosemary West to fraudsters and fine-defaulters, fashers and vagrants, drunk-drivers and drug-pushers, burglars and — any minute now — stalkers. There are 57,320 people in British prisons, more than ever before. We have got them: what next?

Something radical has to be done. Overcrowding is now so serious that it has emerged that the Home Office is preparing contingency plans to lock up prisoners in magistrates' court cells, kept in order by private guards. A security firm confirmed this to a newspaper; prison and probation officers responded with dismay, saying that such cells are dark, smelly, and designed only as waiting rooms.

Meanwhile the scheme for a mili-

tary "boot camp" at Colchester to absorb civilian young offenders is already running into trouble over a possible legal challenge from the Prison Governors Association; a military commander is unqualified to run a civilian prison. Elsewhere, the Home Office has been snapping up pre-fab huts used by oil-rig workers to provide extra beds; before we know it, they will copy the Taleban idea of using cargo-containers. Front police cells to privatisation, every possible avenue is being explored which will enable us to warehouse more and more convicted criminals.

But what's the point? The more crowded the prison system becomes, the lower its quality. Even if you do not care how miserably convicts live — and God knows, there are some it is impossible to wish well — you cannot deny that the less thoughtful and creative prisons are, the less likely they are ever to turn anybody into a useful or at least harmless citizen.

Riots and reports tell us clearly that overstressed prisons are nervy, angry, frustrating places. The morale of prison officers is low. What should be a challenging, interesting job is regarded by most people as the last thing in the world they would want to do. A profession which needs strong and wise recruits is failing to attract enough of them. I mean no disrespect to good prison officers: only to compare them with them for the stress they suffer because we — people, media, and therefore politicians — prefer to turn away from our responsibility once the judge says "send him down".

Inside any prison, staffing problems and economics mean that education sessions and physical exercise are often suddenly curtailed, and that everyone can be banged up for 23 hours at a stretch. Drugs are so rife — and in the privately expressed view of some prison officers, so crucial to preventing uncontrollable riots — that some prisoners arrive innocent of "puff" and "E" and leave with a taste for them. In an attempt to keep the level down, ever stricter rules

prevent anything at all being sent or brought to prisoners: never mind the old jokes about a file in a fruit-cake, these days you can't send them postage stamps because the glue might be impregnated with LSD. Sending a book to a friend in prison requires complex diplomacy and special pleading. Despite the valiant efforts of education departments, prisoners under the stress of numbers become no more than an increasingly desperate exercise in containment.

There are some small candles in the darkness: organisations such as the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, prison visitors, and charities, who look after families of prisoners and promote rehabilitation. But it is hard for them to get noticed: easier to rattle a tin for a donkey sanctuary, or campaign for passports for diplomats' dogs, than to interest Britain in how it handles its prisoners. It does not even make financial sense. Far from "paying a debt to society", most convicts are unwillingly running up a large and never-to-be-refunded hotel bill.

The prison population has to be reduced; when will we demand it? This is not some wet liberal plea for universal mercy. At the moment we let all prisoners out earlier than their sentence suggests, strikingly unimproved. If we could invent other punishments and restraints for criminals who are not a physical danger to the public, we could better contain those who are — killers, gangsters, child molesters, violent robbers. Prison can do this only if it has time and scope and staff to deal with them, not only toughly but intelligently. There is no point in dumping them in places of containment clogged with fine-defaulters and shoplifters and bent lawyers and Ernest Saunders.

To improve jail, we need other punishments. Some could be imaginative: I admit to a soft spot for the American judge who is always condemning people to wash windows and apologise to their wives in public on the town hall steps. Community

service orders could be much more widely used and thoughtfully devised, and administered so rigorously that nobody would think them a soft option. Eric Cantona did everyone more good by teaching children football than he would have done sulking in a cell. The courts could be given authority, and the Probation Service funds, to make lives uncomfortable and restricted in a dozen other ways than jail: service, curfews, restriction of movement, even tagging. One of the few creative ideas to have come out of Michael Howard's Home Office is the withdrawal of driving licences for crimes not related to motoring.

We must get rid of the idea that prison is the only serious punishment for every kind of crime. Clear the decks and enable prisons to work on the worst criminals, mainly the violent. Prison should be not an end, but a beginning: a place where the heaviest disapproval of society, its combined with its most strenuous efforts to persuade and enforce change, both through education and through refusal to tolerate antisocial speech and behaviour.

Clear out the inappropriate inmates and prisons could be both stricter and more creative. Drugs could be far better controlled, not only by a higher ratio of staff to prisoners, but by a less compromising attitude. Physical searches have been curtailed for reasons of human dignity, resulting in an influx of smuggled drugs, but if the only people inside were those who had been violent, or incited and managed violence, it might be more acceptable to enforce such small humiliations.

Prison, at present, involves a lot of aimless hanging around, a few hours of work for the lucky, and the supremacy of a druggy, boasting, macho prisoner culture. If the numbers were drastically reduced, the balance could swing back to a culture imposed by those who (as our representatives) run the prisons. Imagine a humane but determined, professionally respected, well paid cadre of officers with a status comparable to policemen and teachers. Imagine if in a criminal life prison did not mean the point where one sank further into criminal culture, but an enforced return to the values and behaviour of the mainstream. Penal reform is not irrelevant to the moral renaissance Frances Lawrence asks for. It must be an integral part of it.

Libby Purves

on news of Fiat heir Giovanni Agnelli's engagement to a British girl, Frances Avery Howe.

The Caccia, with premises in a Renaissance palace once given by Napoleon to the Borghese family, is mooted as a possible venue for the reception. Giovanni only just scraped into the club after members tried to blackball him because his blood was not sufficiently blue (John Paul Getty Sr was similarly rebuffed). Only when Giovanni's uncle Gianni, the present Fiat boss, threatened to resign was the young nouveau admitted.

Dished out

THIS jaw-dropping depiction of Diana, Princess of Wales, is the work of André Durand, specialist in saccharine portraiture. Entitled *Pizza Diana*, it will be unveiled in a west London restaurant next week by no less authoritative a figure in the world of arts than Sir David Putnam, a regular diner at the haunt.

Lack of space prevents me from displaying the full picture, which shows Diana being presented with a new culinary concoction — the *Pizza Diana*, a "medley" of coloured peppers, mushrooms and cheese — by the restaurant's suave owner. It's hard to say why the Princess is depicted as a clown, but Durand



Diana and the pizza

assures me that it was necessary, as was the striking shade of bright blue eye-shadow. Diana's office was unaware of the unveiling. "We have not seen this, or any other of these pictures," came the reply.

P.H.S

No briefs

THE PRESSURE of the forthcoming election campaign is exacting its toll on Cherie Booth, QC, the wife of Tony Blair. Talk among the Rumpoles is of the difficulty she faces in securing briefs in the run-up to the election.

The clerk in her chambers at Gray's Inn, London, refuses to discuss the matter, but as the campaign approaches I'm told she is unlikely to have the workload that she used to enjoy.

Not only has she a high profile, which deters some solicitors from approaching her, but she is expected to become increasingly involved in the campaign. "She is totally committed to seeing Tony Blair elected Prime Minister," says one source, "and everybody thinks she would give up some of her workload to see it through."

Those in the trade say that Mrs Blair, who has been reported to earn up to £250,000 a year, has no cases lasting more than four weeks on her books.

There will also be family pressures. Although the Blairs have a nanny, she is expected to spend more time at home as Tony stomps the streets.

Ever the diligent researcher, the Panorama presenter Edward Stourton found himself in a small bar in Colorado while investigating next week's programme on Bill Clinton. He ordered Rocky Mountain Oysters from the menu, anticipating something in a shell, perhaps with a lemon wedge. Instead, they turned out to be bull's "parts", sliced and breaded



He said that he was better than me at Citizenship, Miss

— a local delicacy. "Rather like chicken," was his brave verdict.

Braggadocio

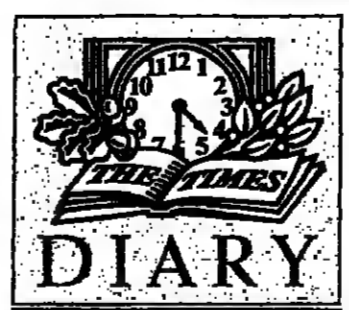
NEVER one to hide his light under a bushel, Melvyn Bragg has been fixing the propaganda for his latest television venture in his own favour. When the press releases for the current Channel 4 musical series *Leaving Home* hit his desk, a tremor ran through his bouffant. His own involvement had been underplayed.

A new paragraph had to be inserted containing the line: "Leaving Home was originated as an idea by Melvyn Bragg, who is an executive producer of the series. Michael Grade and later Simon Rattle enthusiastically embraced the idea, taking three years for the series to reach the screen."

"There were a few minor hiccups along the way," concedes Bragg. "There was a mix-up which was quickly sorted out."

Car daze

LORD MONTAGU of Beaufieu's 70th birthday party on Saturday night, held at his Hampshire pile, took the theme "If music be the food of love, play on". For the occasion, Montagu wore a shirt with



musical notes, a pair of trousers decorated with wine labels and a huge Carmen Miranda hat. The eclectic guest-list of 800 included Prince Edward, Sophie Rhys-Jones, Ken Russell and Lord Brabazon of Tara, King of the Cresta Run.

"It's all a bit of a haze now," said Lord Montagu yesterday, "but I do remember retreating behind a curtain after midnight to sit in my 1909 Rolls-Royce and smoke a cigar. Unfortunately I was caught and taken back to the party, where we danced until four to the music of my dear old friend George Melly."

Club fiat

GRAPPA glasses have been dinking at Rome's most exclusive gentlemen's retreat, the Caccia Club,

Action to redeem society

Michael Howard honours Philip Lawrence's legacy

Events that tear at the heart of the nation can lead to a change of mood and to action that changes behaviour. Such an event was the tragic murder of Philip Lawrence, and the Prime Minister has made it clear that the Government will now play its part to the full in translating his widow's manifesto, published in yesterday's *Times*, into practical proposals.

Already we have taken further action to deal with violent and persistent offenders. We are setting up secure centres to provide a disciplined and secure environment in which a concentrated effort will be made to make them see the error of their ways. We also intend to extend tagging to young offenders, to keep them at home when they might otherwise be making mischief on the streets.

From January 1, it will be an offence to sell a knife to a person under 16 years old. We have banned altogether a particular class of dangerous knives, where it has been possible to define them in a way that distinguishes them from ordinary knives with legitimate uses. We are ready to extend the ban to other examples. Additionally, the police have been given the same powers to stop and search on school premises as they have already in public places. And the ban on handguns above .22 calibre — and on all handguns in the home — will produce the restrictions on gun-owning that so many people long to see.

We must also look to the longer term. In particular, we must act to prevent children becoming offenders in the first place. For example, there is a clear link between truancy and classroom indiscipline and juvenile delinquency. The Government is taking firm action on both fronts. Schools are now under great pressure to reduce truancy, thanks to the publication of school figures measuring their performance in this key area. In addition, this autumn, legislation will be introduced to make it easier for schools to deal firmly with children whose behaviour jeopardises the education of others.

Since the beginning of the year, a small group of ministers has been working together to see what can be done to identify those young people who are most at risk of becoming offenders and to turn them away from crime. The group has been looking at various ways for local agencies and voluntary bodies to work together to prevent young people being sucked into crime. There are many examples on which to build. For example, the Dalston Youth Project in Hackney trains volunteers to befriend, advise and support 19 to 19-year-olds who are at risk of offending or who have already offended. The Home Office is funding an extension of the scheme to cover 11 to 15-year-olds.

In Milton Keynes, a Young People's Befriender Scheme pairs up young people who have been in trouble with trained volunteer mentors, who help them to deal with their problems and improve their self-esteem and social skills. These examples show the valuable contribution ordinary members of the public can make.

Much can also be done by confronting young offenders with the effect of their actions on others. The Hampshire police are developing this approach, as are several social services departments. Young people are made, for the first time, to face up to just what their behaviour can do to their victims. They and their families are encouraged to accept responsibility for their action and for putting things right.

Young citizens too have an important part to play. More than 1,000 Youth Crime Prevention Panels are around the country now spread the message of crime prevention in schools and beyond. I intend to invite youth organisations to a meeting so as to discuss ways for them to contribute to the creation of a world in which good citizenship is the norm, and violence is regarded by everyone with outrage.

Of course, the bonds of good citizenship are not confined to the young. There are now 150,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the country, putting into practice the obligation of citizenship and helping to create a neighbourhood society. So there is a strong foundation on which to build. But there is much more to be done.

One widely shared worry is the influence of media violence. In the Criminal Justice Act of 1994, we tightened the controls on videos and computer games. We requested the classification body to take into account the harm that these could do when deciding what to license and for what age group. Nor can we ignore the level of violence on television. We need to see what more can be done to reduce it.

The ideals of citizenship are worth striving for. The Government intends to establish an annual Philip Lawrence Memorial Award to recognise outstanding achievements of good citizenship by the young. We shall discuss the details with Frances and her children, and ensure that Philip Lawrence's example lives on.

The author is the Home Secretary



PULPIT AND POLITICS

A Catholic contribution to a widening debate

The boundaries between pulpit and politics have rarely been so permeable this century as they are now. Politicians have been competing to appropriate parts of the Christian message for their parties like pilgrims grasping at fragments of the True Cross. Yesterday the Roman Catholic Church, having seen territory traditionally religious colonised by MPs, sought to make a provocative incursion onto the political battleground. Its paper, *The Common Good*, is a thoughtful appraisal of current political trends which refrains from endorsing any party but which is likely to give particular encouragement to Labour. The tone of argument is mature, and welcome. But not all the conclusions are necessarily consonant with the principles which the Church exists to uphold and the beliefs of some of its most dedicated adherents.

There will be resistance from some quarters to the idea of any Church, let alone the Roman Catholic, intervening before a general election with its own manifesto. There is a resilient strain in British public life, from free-thinking Whigs such as Charles James Fox to recent radicals of Left and Right like Michael Foot and Alan Clark, which abjures piety in politics. For the last hundred years the most electorally successful parties in continental Europe have, however, had Catholic social teaching at their heart.

That teaching was, perhaps, best encapsulated by Pius XI in *Quadragesimo Anno* which argued that "the right ordering of economic life cannot be left to a free competition of forces". The Roman Catholic Church is opposed to any materialist doctrine but it has never made the mistake of treating communism as an equal evil with capitalism. However, the collapse of the former has left the Church at odds with the triumphalist expression of the latter. That was apparent in Pope John Paul II's 1991

encyclical *Centesimus Annus* and is reflected in every page of *The Common Good*. In its content and in particular its warmth towards a minimum wage, its invocation of "stakeholding", its wariness towards the extension of market disciplines in health and education and its support for trade unions, it is not congenial reading for robust free-marketters.

The document's insistence on respect for human dignity is welcome but the policies it embraces may not always be the best guarantee of the goals it sets. The point has been well made, not least by William Rees-Mogg in these pages, that support for a minimum wage actuated by a desire to reduce poverty may actually increase it by creating unemployment. The path to the poorhouse can often be paved with good intentions. Similarly, "stakeholding" can become a cover for the hampering of the competitive strength of a company, which in turn undermines its capacity to recruit.

One significant aspect of the document is the balance, almost Jesuitical in its ingenuity, between proclaiming the importance of what it sees as the right to life of the unborn child while insisting that no single issue should govern the voter's choice. The salience of abortion as an issue has disfigured American politics; it is reassuring to see it treated with such care here.

There is certainly a deeply felt need for moral voices in the nation's political debate. The scale and sincerity of the response to Frances Lawrence's manifesto in *The Times* yesterday is clear proof that her call for ethical renewal reflected a public yearning. *The Common Good* also speaks to that need. Although its prescriptions may not all be right for this fallen world, and the Church's eyes should always be fixed on the next, the document is a worthwhile contribution to a widening debate.

A PROVISIONAL VERDICT

Japan has voted for the LDP but not for its bad old ways

Three years ago Japanese voters, disgusted by a series of corruption scandals, broke the Liberal Democratic Party's 38-year monopoly on power in elections whose main theme was the imperative of cleaning the political house. Four Prime Ministers, five coalition Cabinets and a confidence-shattering recession later, the LDP appears again to dominate Japan's political horizon. In Sunday's elections to the Japanese Diet it came within 12 seats of a majority — not enough to govern alone, but enough to control the political agenda in whatever coalition Ryutaro Hashimoto, the LDP leader, cobble together.

The hope that electoral reforms introduced since 1993 would produce a working two-party political system has not been borne out. The New Frontier Party (Shinshintō) headed by Ichiro Ozawa, whose defection from the LDP brought about its fall in 1993, lost not only seats but its bid to establish itself as the undisputed leader of the Opposition. Yet despite the failure of a united Opposition to emerge and the resurgence of the LDP's formidable grassroots party machine, it would be wrong to conclude from Sunday's result either that Japan has returned to the old political mould, or that the public has lost its appetite for political and economic reforms.

The domineering Mr Ozawa paid the price of running a troubled political house, up to a dozen of whose members could now, in the opportunistic traditions of Japanese politics at their worst, defect back to the LDP. He also lost ground because voters did not trust his grand promises to cut taxes by a massive \$162 billion when it was unclear how they were to be financed. Above all, his New Frontier Party no longer strikes them as particularly new, or genuinely radical. That aura has been appropriated by the newborn Democratic Party, established only last month on a "citizens first" platform,

which secured a remarkable 52 of the total 500 parliamentary seats. As Mr Hashimoto admits, the LDP has yet to recover the voters' confidence. It is back only on sufferance, and only in the absence of a convincing alternative. Its mandate is anything but solid; the turnout was the lowest in Japan's postwar history, with four out of ten voters staying away from the polling booths. But after the messy coalitions of the past few years — for which the LDP's partners in the outgoing coalition, the Socialists and the New Harbinger Party, were severely punished — the country could be said to have opted for a period of temporary stability.

The LDP gained ground where its partners lost for a single reason. It was judged the party most likely to muster sufficient strength to deliver on the pledges to deregulate the economy, shake up the bureaucracy, consolidate Japan's economic upturn and tackle the problems of an ageing society. The fact that these were obligatory items on the platform of every party in this election, other than Japan's died-in-the-wool Communist Party, shows that the reform agenda is still very much alive.

Mr Hashimoto must now assemble a working majority, but this will involve more unsavoury compromise. For a start, he needs the Socialists on board, since they hold the balance of power in the Upper House; but that means teaming up again with a party widely despised for abandoning its convictions for the sake of sharing power. The LDP has been given a chance to prove that it is no longer the creature of Japan's strong corporate and bureaucratic interests. It is expected to provide firm leadership. If it fails on either count, the electorate will be unforgiving — and by the next elections the Democrats, the new standard-bearers of reform, could have evolved into the political alternative that has so far eluded Japan.

BALLOONS OVER BRUSSELS

Belgium has lost its innocence without finding a role

Never have Belgians been so united. Across linguistic divides, party loyalties and cultural boundaries, thousands of Belgians took to the streets in anger, frustration and shame. The march through Brussels on Sunday was one of the largest any European city has seen: more than 320,000 people — one in every 35 Belgians — filled the main streets in a silent, dignified demand for justice. There were no slogans or scuffles: only a sea of white balloons represented the innocence of the children murdered by the paedophile ring which has brought Belgium to the brink of a moral and political crisis.

The demonstration, more than any of the spontaneous strikes and withering speeches of the past two months, has exerted a pressure on the Government that is irresistible. Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, promised the parents of the murdered children that he would create a national centre for missing children and that nothing would obstruct a full investigation into the girls' deaths. More significantly, he promised that Belgium would end the political appointment of judges.

The sad thing about this whole sorry affair is that it has taken a series of sordid murders to bring together a nation that for too long has wasted its energies in intercommunal bickering. There was at the weekend a solidarity on the streets of Brussels and an assertion of common humanity that rose above the

squalid deals of a political class that has failed the nation. What ordinary Belgians are demanding is not only justice for the murdered children, but an end to the cosy political relationships that have created a system where the protection of cronies is more important than exposure of wrongdoing.

All countries suffer, from time to time, murders so horrible that they produce a wave of public revulsion and self-doubt. Such cases only have political consequences, however, if there is a perception that they were caused by, or were symptomatic of, failures in the political system. This is why the Dutroux case is causing such an earthquake in Belgian life. There is no suggestion that child murders are more common in Belgium than elsewhere. But there is a widespread belief that too many scandals have gone unanswered, too many crimes unsolved. Belgians have traditionally had narrow horizons, limited, as a result of battles fought over their territory, to their families and immediate neighbourhood. Provincialism is a trait that has been accentuated by decentralisation, as a result of linguistic quarrels, that has left the central government virtually powerless. But Belgian society remains steeped in the precepts of mainstream Roman Catholicism. Last weekend, those moral certainties challenged the political establishment to live up to its responsibilities. Belgium is waiting for an answer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Press report of barred evidence

From Mr William Clegg, QC
Sir, When Colin Stagg was found not guilty of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common he might have hoped that the verdict would be accepted by the police and the press. If so that hope was in vain.

The material published in *The Mail on Sunday* (report, October 21) demands correction.

The case for the Crown at trial against Colin Stagg was based upon a psychological profile of the killer which was alleged to match him. During a five-month police undercover operation designed to obtain a genuine confession all that was obtained from Colin Stagg was a confession to a crime that never took place and a number of details about the murder of Rachel Nickell that could have been proved false.

The conversations between Colin Stagg and the undercover police officer were ruled inadmissible by the trial judge and could not be relied upon as evidence from which to base a psychological profile, even assuming such evidence had been admissible. No other evidence was the subject of a ruling by the trial judge.

It was the prosecution who then decided to offer no evidence and the public can be certain that the decision was not made lightly. The reason no evidence was offered was because the other evidence could not and did not prove Colin Stagg guilty of the killing.

Having spent 14 months in prison before being acquitted by the due process of law it is now to be the subject of a campaign by a newspaper designed to suggest his guilt?

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM CLEGG
(Leading defence counsel,
Regina v Stagg,
3 Hare Court, Temple, E.C.4,
October 21.)

Cheltenham College

From Mr and Mrs Keith Douglas
Sir, You reported on October 17 (see also report, October 19, early editions; *Diary*, October 21) that the Cheltenham College headmaster, Peter Wilkes, has been forced to resign by the college council, apparently because of disappointing A-level results. On the same day you published a letter from the Headmaster of Ampleforth College, advising that some prominent Old Boys were distinctly not among the highest academic achievers.

As Cheltenham College parents we are appalled at the enforced early retirement of Peter Wilkes. The recent A-level results were disappointing — perhaps a reflection of going too far in lowering entry standards to the Sixth Form — but this is being addressed. At the same time, the college has just achieved its best ever GCSE results.

Peter Wilkes has fostered professional and caring attitudes amongst his staff. Talent is nurtured, and youngsters mature believing in themselves and their abilities. Most importantly, the college seems to be a very happy place.

League tables have their use, but they should not be seen as the sole arbiter of achievement. Are we now to treat headmasters like managers of football teams and move them on when the going gets rough? Perhaps then we should place some of the college council on the transfer list.

Yours faithfully,
K. M. DOUGLAS,
M. DOUGLAS,
Red Dormers, Oakley Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Visiting opera praised

From Mr Chris Viveash
Sir, I was delighted to read your opinion critic's review (October 15) of the Romanian National Opera's visit to the Hippodrome Theatre, Bristol.

I attended the company's performance of *Norma* on October 10 and before curtain-up pondered how long it had been since the provinces had had a chance to see *Norma*. Twenty years is the answer, when it was done by Welsh National Opera.

Your critic makes destructive remarks on the performance of the Romanian company, but does not address the lack of choice for provincial opera-goers who want to see grand opera. ENO and Covent Garden have not put their noses out of London into the provinces for over 20 years.

Norma at Bristol was cheered to the echo. I hope the Romanian National Opera enjoy enormous success with their tour.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS VIVEASH,
2 Roman Crescent,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

Thought for today

From Mrs Anne Atkins
Sir, I like Mr Lawlor's suggestion (letter, October 19) that *Thought for the Day* should consist of a period of silent reflection on a passage from the Bible, the Talmud, or the Koran.

I am confident that, depending on the passages chosen, a great deal more controversy could be generated than we have seen this past week.

Yours,
ANNE ATKINS,
St Dionis's Vicarage,
18 Parsons Green, SW6,
October 19.

'Flawed' funding damages NHS

From Mr C. B. T. Adams, FRCS
Sir, No one doubts the Government has increased its overall spending on the NHS in recent years (Conservative conference report, October 12). However, the level of government funding is such that increasingly the NHS is providing an emergency service: patients needing elective surgery are having to wait longer, or go without, or pay for it. In five years I suspect the NHS will be the NES — National Emergency Service.

However, what concerns many such as myself is how the available money is used. The NHS accounting rules would not be tolerated in any business. They penalise the efficient and prevent successful departments responding fully to demand. This produces profound loss of morale, something that is not easily reversed.

The first flawed rule is the 3 per cent annual "efficiency" penalty, through which every department must make savings in costs, not in its 13th year. Obviously it penalises the efficient departments first, rather than if everyone were required to lose half a stone each year: those starting at a lean eight stone would by now be dead, while those originally weighing 20 stone would be healthier.

The second rule is that "prices (to NHS purchasers) must follow costs". In other words, no surplus (or profit) can be accumulated to create capital to expand the facilities of successful units trying to respond to market forces, unless special permission (little known and rarely granted) is obtained from the central NHS Management Executive.

In December 1995 I described in the *British Medical Journal* the financial demise of the Oxford Neurosurgical Unit. We became cheaper (prices following costs) than any other neurosurgical unit by far, yet could cope with increasing patient numbers only by shortening the patients' length of stay until we became unsafe. I had to call a halt and declare the department bankrupt.

What subsequently perturbed me was the profound ignorance of some of the most senior members of the medical profession, both in NHS administration and in the royal colleges, of the practical consequences of these NHS accounting rules.

For instance, one eminent and very senior NHS administrator thought costs to the purchaser were calculated by the "bottom up" approach, that is, based on the cost of individual patients.

The NHS is light years away from this sophisticated method. If such ignorance exists at the highest levels, how on earth is the situation going to be reversed and the morale of NHS staff resurrected?

This aspect of NHS financing needs looking at urgently. The problem will not go away until someone makes NHS accounting rules much more sensible.

Yours faithfully,
C. B. T. ADAMS
(Consultant neurosurgeon,
Radcliffe Infirmary NHS Trust,
Department of
Neurosurgery,
Woodstock Road, Oxford,
October 16.)

Fall in Labour lead

From Mr Frank Alloun
Sir, The nine-point drop in Labour's lead over the Conservatives shown in yesterday's *Sunday Times* NOP poll (report, October 21) substantiates the warnings by many active Labour Party members.

It shows that in the ABs, the better-off middle class, the Tories have recovered a 34-point lead compared with 11 points a month earlier. Amongst skilled manual workers Labour is ahead by 24 points and amongst unskilled workers by 41 points. That is where Labour's greatest support lies.

The way ahead for Labour is to satisfy the needs of millions of people who don't vote at all: nine million in the 1992 election plus two million who were not even on the election register, mostly poverty-stricken, repressed and alienated.

There are today 4.7 million people existing on sweated wages, ten million pensioners, two million "officially" unemployed and seven million trade unionists, and, in addition, their families. Their votes can be earned and won by looking after their interests instead of giving priority to the upper-middle class.

This would not only be vote-winning; it is morally right that Labour should help those in greatest need.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLOUN
(Labour MP for Salford East, 1955-63),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester,
October 21.

On the run

From Mr Julian Ellis
Sir, It is not Mr M. Gee (letter, October 16) who is missing anything when he queries the wisdom of placing a prisoner the police describe as dangerous in an open prison to prepare him for release. It is the police who often make statements based on out-of-date information in such cases.

I know nothing of the circumstances of the case Mr Gee refers to. In my experience, however, when a prisoner serving a life sentence has made sufficient progress after courses, counselling, treatment and the like, and after years of incarceration, all the reports that have been prepared on him or her are submitted to a Home Office minister for approval before the inmate can be moved to an open prison.

The work which is carried out is considerable, and the decisions as to whether to move a life to open conditions err on the side of caution, sometimes excessive caution as seen through the eyes of boards of visitors.

Unfortunately, police spokesmen often do not seem to understand the remarkable transformation of many life-sentence prisoners which not infrequently follows highly skilled work in our prisons.

Yours etc,
ALEXANDER GOEHR,
HARRISON BIRTWISTLE
(King's College London),
JOHN CASKEN
(Manchester University),
PETER DICKINSON
(Goldsmiths College, London),
SEBASTIAN FORBES
(Surrey University),
NICOLA LEFANU
(York University),
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Music,
University Music School,
West Road, Cambridge,
October 18.

Referendum issue

From Mr K. A. Gottlieb
Sir, It is not difficult to attract devotees to a single-purpose party: the simple purity is seductive and there are no distractions such as reality, responsibility and the like.

The Government's commitment to a referendum before a decision on European monetary union must surely represent the optimum attainment of the Referendum Party's aim. Votes for that party will mostly be diverted from the Conservatives. Although new Labour's view of Europe is unclear, socialists tend to be fundamentally sympathetic to federalism.

The only logical position for the Referendum Party is to back the Conservatives and hope that Major gets a large enough majority to examine vigorously all the questions Europe raises.

Yours faithfully,
KIM A. GOTTLIEB,
London and Bath Estates plc,
135 Hammersmith Road,
West Kensington, W14,
October 21.

Bullying in schools

From Mr Fitzroy Ponniah
Sir, Your report "Sikh pupil found dead after writing of school misery" (October 17) is very sad and disturbing: sad because of the loss of a priceless life and apparently a very bright one, as his poems indicated; disturbing, as the growth of bullying in school is a symptom of the weakening of emphasis on development of character in education. This lack of character is seen in society as a whole, as evidenced by the sleaze investigation in Parliament (report, October 15).

Vijay Singh's poems and life point to an erosion of traditional priorities which should be a matter for great concern in this era of change.

Yours faithfully,
FITZROY PONNIAH,
72 Hazelwood Road, E17,
October 17.

Nobel prizewinner

From Mr Christopher J. Nutt
Sir, Of course James Mirrlees is correct in thinking that there is an optimum level of taxation (letter, October 14), just as there is of other exertions — including physical torture. But how depressing to devote enough of a life as to earn Nobel Prize to researching the exact degree to which you can push such a dismal creed.

In most walks of life pressure has been abandoned as a means of getting the most out of people — encouragement produces much better results. Is it not time that tax experts caught up?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER J. NUTT,
8 Cambry Place,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
October 16.

Making allowances

From Mr Ian D. Bruce
Sir, Some years ago, in the days when wages were paid by cash in a pay packet (letter, October 18), I had to try to persuade our workforce to disregard the Truck Acts and accept payment by credit transfer.

One witty old boilermaker told me that I could never expect to succeed as one of the great benefactors of the pay packet was that, on going home on pay day at the end of the month, it could all be handed over unopened to the wife, so demonstrating great loyalty and devotion on the part of the donor.

He went on to point out with some satisfaction that the boilermakers never told their wives they were paid weekly.

Yours sincerely,
IAN D. BRUCE,
1 Sandway Park,
Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire,
October 9.

Discord on college composition rule

From Professor Alexander Goehr
Sir, In the last 50 years musical composition has come to occupy an increasingly important role in musical education, from GCSE to PhD.

Although there is a line to be drawn between pure musicalological and historical research and free creativity, it has been demonstrated again and again that the one thrives off the other and that considerable overlap exists.

Consequently we have witnessed a gradual increase in the cultivation of musical composition in schools and universities and employment of composers as teachers, not only with the intention of "making composers", but of contributing uniquely to the wider understanding of music.

Now the Humanities Research Board of the British Academy (as opposed to the Higher Education Funding Councils, which are including university composition within the current research assessment exercise) has decided to draw a distinction between composition and research.

It says in a letter to universities "that even when composition is predicated upon analytical, historical and theoretical knowledge of existing music, that does not turn it into research", and consequently has withdrawn funding for the study of composition at graduate level.

This extraordinary belief has been reached without the benefit of direct consultation with any of the practitioners in the field and will have the result of closing British students of composition out of educational institutions after their first degrees and depriving of graduate students all the UK composers who are employed in British universities. Many of them have expressed support for this letter.

At a time when the majority of countries where music is taught in universities, and following the lead of the US, composition is increasingly recognised as lying at the centre of our understanding and research, this seems a remarkable undertaking and we wonder whether it will be justified by the negligible savings that will result from it.

Yours etc,
ALEXANDER GOEHR,
HARRISON BIRTWISTLE
(King's College London),
JOHN CASKEN
(Manchester University),
PETER DICKINSON
(Goldsmiths College, London),
SEBASTIAN FORBES
(Surrey University),
NICOLA LEFANU
(York University),
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Music,
University Music School,
West Road, Cambridge,
October 18.

Art of illusion?

From Dr Denis Cashman
Sir, Mr Stephen Walters (letter, October 16) is mistaken in assuming that a piece of writing must rhyme and scan to qualify for the title of "poem".

The *Chambers English Dictionary* definition is "composition of high beauty of thought or language and artistic form, typically, but not necessarily, in verse", and you yourself in a recent leading article (September 18; see also leading article, "Live Poets Society", October 10) drew attention to Housman's admission that while he could no more define a poem than a terrier could define a rat, he recognised it at once when he saw it.

I make no judgment on Jenny Joseph's poem, though I much enjoyed it, but from the vast treasury of lyric verse I would suggest that Mr Walters read some of Helen Waddell's *Medieval Latin Lyrics* free rhymes but a veritable cornucopia of the loveliest poetry ever written.

I am, Sir, your obedient and metrical servant,
DENIS CASHMAN,
4 Derwent Road,
Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.

Waving not drowning?

From Mr Niels Kelsted
Sir, On page 3 today (later editions), a report on Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall informed me that their marriage "appeared to be foundering". By the time I had turned to the back page, however, I discovered that the marriage now "appeared to be floundering" — a step in the right direction. I'm sure you'll agree.

Yours flounderingly,
N. KELSTED,
52 Winchester Road, St Margarets,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
October 16.

Keeping one's hair on

From Mrs Georgette Behar
Sir, Once again I see you have used the derogatory term "blue rinse" when describing women of a certain age, usually Tory, though in this case (October 17) in Richard Morrison's review of Sir Cliff Richard in *Withering Heights*.

I personally "maintain" my dark-brown hair and none of my friends with white hair have blue rinses. Stop it.

Sincerely,
GEORGETTE BEHAR,
54 Hanover Gate Mansions,
Park Road, NW1.

Business letters, page 31

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL SIR ANTHONY GRIFFIN



Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, GCB, Controller of the Navy, 1971-75, and chairman of British Shipbuilders, 1977-80, died on October 16 aged 75. He was born in Peshawar on November 24, 1920.

Griffin was appointed to the cruiser Gloucester in 1939, flagship of the East Indies squadron, with the Admiral's yellow Rolls-Royce parked between the funnels. Her war started with anti-pocket-battleship patrols off Madagascar followed by hotter action in the eastern Mediterranean, participating in the first brush with the Italian Navy off Calabria in July 1940.

going to the Far East in the escort carrier Empress, being again mentioned in despatches. With a promotion to commander in 1951 and to captain in 1956, his postwar appointments included navigating the battleship Anson, time spent in aircraft carriers, dealing with radar research and development, and command of the support ship Woodbridge Haven and her attendant flock of 16 minesweepers.

BILL BEDFORD



Bill Bedford, OBE, AFC, former test pilot, died on October 20 aged 75. He was born on November 18, 1920.

what was then regarded by many Whitehall mandarins and MPs as an "outrageous" supersonic flight over the sea in a Hunter 77 advanced trainer. In 1961, for example, he was doing high-speed vibration tests on a prototype P11Z vertical take-off fighter when the whole aircraft began to vibrate.

SIR JEREMY ROWE

Sir Jeremy Rowe, CBE, industrialist, died on September 28 aged 67. He was born on October 31, 1928.

JEREMY ROWE'S long and distinguished career in industry and in the public sector reflected the turbulent changes of the Thatcher era

and involved him in several controversial issues of the time. As chairman of the London Brick Company, he fought with conviction for the company's independent future against an ultimately successful takeover bid by Hanson.

Rowe, keen to follow in the family tradition, won a scholarship to train in the brick industry in America, which he took up after completing his degree in history at Trinity College, Cambridge.



Environment was persuaded to endorse a deal by which one of the most important "community related assets", the 1,600-acre Nene Park, was handed over in perpetuity to an independent trust endowed from the proceeds of the corporation's commercial developments and free from any risk of political interference.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOMAS, Anthony, Mary, 67, died on September 28 aged 67. He was born on October 31, 1928.

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MORRIS

Exceptional value is clearly offered in the Morris Isis Six, and the model should be well able to hold its own at home and abroad against foreign competition.

ON THIS DAY

October 22, 1931. At this interwar London Motor Show many makes were exhibited that are now only names from the past - Lancia, Minerva, Hotchkiss and Marmon among them.

DAIMLER

A majestic-looking car is the Thirty-Five Daimler enclosed limousine, which has a Barker body to seat seven. The price of the complete car is £1,875, and of the chassis £1,050.

COURT & SOCIAL

FORTECOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES: Please send Court Page announcements by post to: Mrs. J. Nemo, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.

Table with columns for company names and addresses, including CBE (Shareholders) Limited, Bristow Properties (Shareholders) Limited, etc.

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Business week offers design for better living

By Sally Watts

OWNER MANAGERS of new and growing businesses can learn how design should stimulate sales at a forum to be held next week.

The Achieving Success Through Effective Design forum will take place at Bromley on October 30. It is one of 30 events - many for smaller enterprises - being held around Britain in the first annual Design In Business Week.

Events are mainly in two categories ways of using design for business enhancement, and some actual techniques. For example rapid prototyping, to help product designers and manufacturing engineers to assess benefits of this new technology (Coventry, October 30), an exhibition and seminars to demonstrate prototyping in business development (Norwich, October 29); electronic retailing and the Internet (October 24), and, for the novice, using the Internet for efficient business operations (October 29), both at Dagenham, Essex.

Two Sheffield Hallam University lecturers will run seminars on a third technique, computer-aided design, at Cardiff and Walspool, on October 29 and 30 to help smaller manufacturers who lack impartial advice. Christopher Rust, industrial design, and Ian Tranter, engineering, are experienced in helping smaller firms to implement CAD Companies, says Mr Rust, have to be time-competitive and need an effective design process and the flexibility to produce different products for new clients. Mr Rust says that he and Mr Tranter will take "a diagnostic approach" to matters of interest to participants, and discuss the need to review operations before implementation.

Three Business Links - Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Thames Valley - will stage an evening lecture, Making Design Work For You (Aylesbury, October 29). On the same evening in Leeds, small companies and designers will explore the benefits of design.

Focusing on the timeless appeal of classic cameras

By David Askham

CONVENTIONAL film technology sounds out of place in today's photographic world of digital imaging, yet in a modern workshop in Andover a small business is continuing to make large format mahogany, brass and leather-bellows cameras pioneered by Louis Gandolfi more than 100 years ago.

There is a continuing worldwide demand for these classic cameras, which is why Brian Gould, of Hampshire Design, decided in 1982 to bid for the Gandolfi name. He succeeded in convincing the late Fred Gandolfi that he could muster a team of highly skilled and enthusiastic craftsmen worthy of sustaining the production of these world-famous cameras. In his final years, Fred Gandolfi passed on his unique skills to his successors, who now combine cabinet-making techniques with other modern technologies to continue production of these timeless products.

Some 14 years later Mr Gould's company is still making classic Gandolfi cameras for professional and serious amateur photographers, refined to provide even greater versatility.

Another factor in the success of the revitalised Gandolfi company was the arrival of Sir Kenneth Corfield as chairman in 1987. He not only brought business acumen, but also considerable design flair. Years ago he was a postwar pioneer of British-made Corfield cameras for the consumer market.

However, he was not content to rest on his laurels. The new company designed a range of large-format cameras - known as the



Brian Gould, managing director, left, and Eddie Hill with a range of their Gandolfi and Corfield cameras

Variant - utilising modern materials and construction techniques. These cameras find favour with photographers who appreciate their precision and value for money. They are also unique in that they can be adapted quickly to accommodate three film sizes.

Cameras made by Gandolfi range in price from £797 to £3,000. Lenses are extra. A comprehensive range of ancillary equipment is also made or supplied.

In 1990 Gandolfi Cameras moved to new premises in Andover and also changed its manufacturing policy. More work was subcontracted, leaving the company

free to concentrate on design, development, final assembly, calibration and marketing. They also departed from traditional direct selling and established a series of agencies worldwide to extend the markets for Gandolfi cameras.

In addition to bespoke camera-making, cameras are now made for stock by dealers around the world, with 40 per cent of production going into Europe, 40 per cent to the US, 10 per cent to Japan and 10 per cent for the UK.

Mr Gould says: "We operate in a very competitive global market of which we have a very satisfying share. Specialisation and limited

diversity help us to exploit our unique niche market. Gandolfi cameras have been made continuously since the 1880s. They have remained popular because they are traditionally rugged and reliable and appeal to medical, advertising, landscape and architectural photographers.

"An amazing number of people respect the long-established Gandolfi name and products. We even see descendants of customers who bought Gandolfi cameras three generations ago bringing back their old inherited cameras for rebuilding."

Brian Gould is on 01264 357859.

Heseltine promises to streamline state aid for small businesses

By David Fanning

MORE coherent and simplified business support programmes have been promised by Michael Heseltine.

Launching the results of the Government's four-month consultation on improvements to DTI help for businesses, particularly small firms, the Deputy Prime Minister told the House of Commons: "We are committed to making government-funded support as customer-focused as possible."

In a significant change of policy, the Government is to move away from centrally designed and administered schemes, which businesses say are too complex and distant from their own individual needs.

Instead, business support from six or more government departments will be channelled through a maximum of 25 programmes, as against the present 140 schemes. More particularly, 15 or so of the new programmes will be tailored specifically for smaller firms.

Local business groups and trade associations are promised more say in the design and provision of business support arrangements. The DTI has also announced new funding initiatives for local and sectoral business support, which Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has said are intended to improve business competitiveness.

"The local challenge will build on Business Link partnerships," he said. The intention is to help those Business Link partnerships to design and deliver high-quality business support, particularly to smaller firms.

Mr Lang added that sectoral challenge funds would assist

projects in whole industries, from advanced robotics to textiles.

The money available to bidders in the first round of challenges will not be known until after next month's Budget. The Government has indicated that it intends to make available around £30 million a year initially, building up to around £40 million a year.

Four avenues of support have been identified by the DTI: helping businesses to develop employees' skills and creativity; promoting commercial exploitation of technology and know-how; improving market information gathering and supplier and customer networks; and easing access to sources of capital and working funds.

The Government's response to the consultation process and the local and sectoral challenge guidelines are free from the Challenge helpline: 0171 510 0142.



Heseltine: customised support



Richard Page, the small business minister, and Barbara Roche, his opposite number on the Labour benches, will be keynote speakers at the national small firms policy and research conference being held at the University of Central England's business school, Birmingham, on November 20-22.

The event forms part of the West Midlands Festival of Industry and Enterprise. Fees are £150 for one day, £275 for the full conference and £395 including

accommodation, all prices plus VAT. Further details can be obtained from Rachel Saice on 0121 331 5464.

Midland Bank is offering up to 18 months of free banking to small business start-ups by its existing personal account holders as part of a revamping of its business banking. Firms are able to claim a

0.5 per cent discount on small business loans and overdrafts linked to Midland Bank insurance.

A Japanese senior trade adviser, Dr Keiichiro Komatsu, has joined the Department of Trade and Industry's Exports to Japan unit on secondment from the Japan External Trade Organ-

isation. The Exports to Japan Unit is on 0171 215 4913.

A series of articles designed to help business angels and companies seeking finance have been reprinted by the Local Investment Networking Company. Topics include the valuing of a business, due diligence, heads of agreement and preference shares.

Midland Bank has paid for the reprint and copies are available free by calling 0345 180180.

Aztec, the training and enterprise council for Merton, Wandsworth and Kingston upon Thames, is holding an enterprise fair for high-flyers at Wandsworth Civic Centre on Saturday. Visitors will be offered free information and advice. Anyone in the three boroughs who is starting a new business is eligible to join the Tec's high-flyers programme.

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GENERAL

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Informative presentation by a panel of specialists from Australia & New Zealand on the immigration requirements, resident entry criteria, business opportunities & current economic conditions. Includes presentation by local area speakers, video, comprehensive info-pack & refreshments. For further details & bookings please contact London 0181-760-3401

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Steady accumulator stays ahead of the game



TWO months in, and the leader for the past five weeks is still there. Mr J. Staszewicz, of Ramsey, Isle of Man, retains his slender lead, now of four points, over a chasing pack in the race for £50,000 in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game.

Mr Staszewicz has been a steady rather than spectacular accumulator; this explains why he has remained the overall leader, ahead of some ITF selectors who have scored more heavily some weeks, but fallen away in others.

The weekly winner is Mr J. Decasty, of Hemel Hempstead, who wins the £250 prize. He scored 34 points this week with his team Robin's Barry Army, with Jason Dodd, the Southampton defender, his highest individual scorer.

Mr Decasty's team is:

Goalkeeper
L Miklosko (West Ham)

Full backs
L Dixon (Arsenal)
J Dodd (Southampton)

Central defenders
S Campbell (Tottenham)
U Ehiogu (Aston Villa)

Midfield players
R Di Matteo (Chelsea)
G Donis (Blackburn)
B Laudrup (Rangers)
A Thom (Celtic)

Strikers
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)
D Saunders (Nottm Forest)

Manager
B Robson (Middlesbrough)



The return of Rued Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, from injury, could make him an attractive double points-earner



If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can use the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up

to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually loaned or transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) phone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
32905	IN	Ulrich van Gobbel	Southampton £1.50m
42311	OUT	Berito Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday £3.00m
52594	LOANED PLAYERS	Tony Cottee	West Ham United £2.00m

Loan periods subject to fluctuation

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	Keeps clean sheet*	4pts
Striker	Scores goal	2pts
Striker	Appearance	1pt
Striker	Scores hat-trick	6pts
Striker	Manager	3pts
Striker	Team wins	3pts
Striker	Team draws	1pt
Striker	Team loses	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	2pts
Goalkeeper	Concedes penalty	1pt
Goalkeeper	Misses penalty	1pt
Goalkeeper	Scores own goal	1pt
Goalkeeper	Manager	1pt
Goalkeeper	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match

PLAYING ABROAD?

An unbelievable offer starting in *The Times* on Monday October 28

Call 0891 866 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) phone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	NST Monkstone	(J Staszewicz)	206
2	Skyforest	(A Burton)	202
3	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	198
4	Gangsters	(A Lane)	197
5	John Hunt Taurton D	(J Hunt)	195
6	John Hunt Taurton H	(J Hunt)	195
7	John Hunt Taurton F	(J Hunt)	195
8	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	191
9	1st Elef	(K J Burns)	190
10	Riggy's Roarers	(A Riggs)	189
10	Scholel For Goals	(K Booth)	189
10	Brain's Team	(B Howes)	189
13	John Hunt Taurton E	(J Hunt)	189
13	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	188
13	Nomads	(N Broom)	188
18	Lesley's Legmen	(L Michaelis)	187
17	Jones Boys Three	(M Jones)	186
17	Purple Rain	(B Schill)	186
17	Plastic Filters 10	(T Fitchley)	186
20	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	185
20	Tulip's Tops	(D Tulip)	185
22	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	184
23	Beaston Celtic	(Barry McGivern)	183
24	Sky Times II	(L McCullough)	182
25	Nobby	(J Brown)	181
25	AB 4	(A Boyland)	181
25	Pin Ups Two	(P Tustler)	181
25	Hopeful Hotshots	(H Rimmer)	181
29	Daggers	(V Cox)	180
29	Revolt On Toast	(N Bowles)	180
29	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swires)	180
29	Jones Boys 8	(M Jones)	180
33	Dynamo Hibs	(S Miller)	179
33	ST Ud	(M O'Brien)	179
33	Storm	(P Mills)	179
33	Jane's Giants	(J Longton)	179
37	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	178
37	Incarnations	(L A Tomlinson)	178
37	Rollins Raiders	(P M Handley)	178
37	Bumble XI	(S Jones)	178
42	United In Footy	(O Alton)	177
42	Fortuna Sandwich	(J Finkel)	177
42	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscail)	177
42	Alecaric Villa	(M Jules)	177
42	The Red Devils	(K Booth)	177
42	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	177
42	Team Foolery FC	(M Moran)	177
48	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	176
49	Ainist	(I Fyfe)	176
49	Orvieto Classico	(J Bradshaw)	176
49	Clover Vale	(N Ensingh)	176
49	Toto Calcio	(A Daye)	176
54	Expansive Failures	(S Harper)	175
54	Beyond Fault	(P Jones)	175
54	PJB Rowers	(P J Butler)	175
54	Kanfer's Cronies	(E O Kanfer)	175
54	Arrogant FC	(F K Taylor)	175
59	I	(M Corless)	174
59	John Hunt Taurton G	(J Hunt)	174
59	Polly's Privs	(F Smiley)	174
59	The Space Cowboys	(T Butler)	174
59	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	174
59	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	174
59	Claremont Loyal	(B Fox)	174
59	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swires)	174
59	Le Bouffiers	(J Roobuck)	174
59	Flying Foreigners	(D Thomas)	174
59	Where's Roy Gone?	(P Fromm)	173
59	Burch Girls	(M Burch)	173

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Call the ITF checklines on 0891 866 643
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Calls cost (per minute)
45p cheap rate,
50p other times.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
111	Fridesco 36	(R Fyfe)	169
111	E	(M Corless)	169
111	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	169
111	Wether's Wanderers	(D Wetherall)	169
111	Ginger FC	(C Armstrong)	169
111	Triple Top Tan	(P Bellamy)	169
111	T 25	(T Bassant)	169
111	Glen Duffers	(S Wilson)	169
111	Fendon United	(E Cowen)	169
111	White Feathers	(M Catchpole)	169
111	Gomark City	(M P Standfield)	169
111	Glen's Win World Cup	(F Geary)	169
111	Seis Eagles	(S Oliver)	169
111	FC Big Hands	(A Merrin)	169
111	Red Star Belgravia	(P S Bonnett)	169
128	Book United 1	(R Keenan)	168
128	Apex Millies	(M Jackson)	168
128	Seis United	(S Wilson)	168
128	West Wanderers	(G Semuels)	168
128	G Money FC	(D Cubbel)	168
128	Parma Anderson	(P Hands)	168
128	Canon's Hotshots	(D Cannon)	168
128	Foreign Legion	(R Bowling)	168
128	Jason's Boys Four	(J Murray)	168
128	Art's Allstars	(A Bangh)	168
141	Perry's FC	(A William)	167
141	Row Ud	(K J Burns)	167
141	Heart Kart XI	(H Kart)	167
141	Tasla	(A Spence)	167
141	Team A	(A Lane)	167
141	Gauntlet FC	(C J Elchred)	167
141	Deaf Men Can Manage	(R E H Tunnicliffe)	167
141	Zig Zag Zak 5	(J Zak)	167
141	Leggy's Boys	(S Boyton)	167
141	Lariat Mergers	(G Wales)	167
152	Oct95-11 Champ!	(M Slackton)	166
152	Knixy Imports	(S Fraser)	166
152	Der Con 3	(M Peck)	166
152	Cive From Down Under	(J Brown)	166
152	Nobby 14	(N Hill)	166
152	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	166
152	Chris's Cream Team	(M Sawley)	166
152	Norwich AFC 3	(J Spence)	166
152	Zips	(W Spence)	166
152	Jack's Nightmare	(J Lane)	166
152	Champion Elect	(N Razzle)	166
152	Hemmond's Heroes	(J Hammond)	166
152	Shooting Stars	(S Scott)	166
152	Champions	(C C Vevers)	166
152	Allen XI	(A Dymit)	166
152	Synce's Warriors XI	(A Synce)	166
152	Rex's Rowers	(N Razzle)	166
152	Blue Stars	(N Broomhall)	166
152	Burbage Bombers	(J Bull)	166
152	Jamie's Giants	(J Allen)	166
152	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	166
172	ABC	(M Baber)	165
172	TWPC 1	(T Wabley)	165
172	Eric's Allstars	(E Routledge)	165
172	Synce Super Stars	(J Swanson)	165
172	Beyond Care	(P Swanson)	165
172	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	165
172	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	165
172	Cholm Chk 69	(C Scarlett)	165
172	Not Bad For \$85m	(A Harris)	165
172	Over The Moon FC	(no name)	165
172	Wansated Winners	(H Gray)	165
172	Gullit's Wonders	(C Hand)	165
172	Bob	(M Haswell)	165
172	Subwith Ud 5	(M Larcombe)	165
172	Soccer Superstars	(G Curtis)	165
172	Den's Devils	(G Thompson)	165
172	Thompson's XI	(G Thompson)	165
172	Oytrage I	(G O Emoghene)	165
172	Utd Forever Eldo	(E Kharodia)	165
172	Mum's 1st XI	(J O'Connell)	165
172	Real Ale Madrid 2	(M Smith)	165
195	Geatit	(R Rowe)	164
195	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	164
195	Achilles 1	(A Hynes)	164
195	Albion Harries XI	(A Boucher)	164
195	Carl Michael Rangers	(R D Walden)	164
195	The Simpsons	(J Simpson)	164
195	No Midfield	(J B Potwood)	164
195	Poconstein Goals	(J B Potwood)	164
195	Gunning Fox Glory	(P Ryan)	164
195	Sundon City	(A Bartholomew)	164
195	T 20	(T Bassant)	164
195	Euro Paulo 1	(P O'Connell)	164
195	Bell Watchers	(J Murray)	164
195	Spence Town	(A Spence)	164
195	Zig Zag Zak 25	(J Zak)	164
195	Subwith Ud 25	(M Larcombe)	164
195	Downs Destroyers	(J Palmer)	164
195	Prory Rangers	(S Doggett)	164
195	Ry's Lions	(R Brown)	164
195	R + N Flashboys	(E Kasy)	164
195	Totted One	(D Fitchley)	164
195	Abdul's Revenge	(A Davies)	164
195	Lynn's Lions	(A Davies)	164
195	Foreign Flyers	(T Jordan)	163
195	Tim's Tigers	(S Mingle)	163
195	Concrete Banana	(J Braidwood)	163
195	Well Hard Ud	(G Black)	163
195	Chris	(C Milne)	163
195	All Laggd Up	(J Braidwood)	163
195	Col 1	(G Black)	163
195	Elle's Fellas	(M Postmans)	163
195	Alencia FC	(A Stiffano)	163
195	Glass Marvels	(C Glass)	163
195	Ricknolds Rowers	(G Rhys)	163
195	AFC Domestos	(G Singh Mangat)	163
195	PT's Top Team	(T Tidmarsh)	163
195	4.4.2	(K Browne)	163
195	Shrew Moles	(A Kenris)	163
195	Super United	(P Huffer)	163
195	The Palace	(R Shackleton)	163
195	Shack Attack	(M Swallow)	163
195	Deep Clean Chimney	(J R Hope)	163
195	Pitchbury Pirates	(K Mason)	163
195	Smashin'	(M Mason)	163
195	Nick's Netballs	(J Gohil)	163
195	Lynxudy Ud	(S Smith)	163
195	God's Airlanders 2	(S A Godroy)	163
195	Sheep Shearers	(T E Upton)	163
195	Gusford All Stars	(J Eder)	163
195	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	163
195	Steven's Wonders	(S Montgomery)	163
195	Careless Whisper	(L Geary)	163
195	Lawson's One	(M Price)	163
195	Sparty Big Bone	(J Staszewicz)	163
195	Utd Boys Ud 1	(B Gardiner)	163

مكتبة من الاصل

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like M Watt, N Walker, D Seaman, etc.



Philippe Albert, right, of Newcastle, celebrates his goal against Manchester United. His goals are valuable in ITF

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like C Tyler, R Scimeca, C Hendry, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like P Grant, P di Canio, R Guilt, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like A Rae, P Bracewell, M Smith, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like S Booth, D Shearer, W Dodds, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like R Aitken, A Wenger, B Little, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like S McKimmie, L Dixon, N Winterburn, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like D Windass, S Glass, P Bernard, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like I Woan, S Stone, S Barnhill, etc.

Table with columns: Code, Name, Team, Em, Pts, Wk, Ovr. Lists players like R Aitken, A Wenger, B Little, etc.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including page number 11 and various small notices.

NEWS

Howard sets up citizenship award

An annual good citizenship award for young people is to be set up in the name of the murdered headmaster, Philip Lawrence, Michael Howard announces today.

The Home Secretary, writing in *The Times*, says that the memorial award, which will recognise outstanding contributions towards the community, is one of a series of ideas being considered by the Government in an attempt to improve society and defeat violence.

Catholic manifesto criticised by Tories

The Catholic Church faced criticism after advocating left-leaning policies in a pre-election manifesto designed to remind Catholics of its teaching on social issues. Although bishops denied that any political party was favoured, their support of Labour policies prompted criticism from Tory MPs.

Reward goes to charity

Paul Onions, the British tourist whose evidence helped to convict Ivan Milat, the Australian "backpacker murderer", says he will give a £250,000 reward to charity and the victims' families.

Not Scot-free

Visitors will have to pay up to £5.50 to see the Stone of Scone when it is placed in Edinburgh Castle on its return to Scotland from Westminster Abbey.

Afghanistan pillaged

Afghanistan has lost its past to war. Palaces and mansions are destroyed, historical monuments have been shelled, the National Museum is rubble. Every item of state treasure has been smashed, sold or stolen.

Gandhi archive found

A previously unknown collection of handwritten papers reveals Mahatma Gandhi lecturing Mountbatten and accusing Churchill of disservice to India.

Student found dead

An Oxford classics student has been found dead in her college bed one week into her first term. Police were last night investigating how Rachel Steer, 18, from Surbiton in Surrey, died.

Kohl's buoyant hopes

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, shrugged aside his Government's financial crisis and declared European monetary union and political integration were within reach.

Sex register dropped

Plans for a national register of sex offenders in Britain have been dropped from the Government's law and order legislation.

Clinton 'indictments'

David Hale, the Arkansas banker who helped to convict three associates of President Clinton and his wife Hillary, claimed the First Lady faced certain indictment after the US elections.

Parents' plea for help

The parents of Simon Wilmut, critically injured when youths dropped concrete on his car, asked others not to harbour them.

Refugees flee camps

Thousands of Hutu refugees yesterday fled their camps in Zaire after attacks by the Rwandan Army and Tutsi warriors from Zaire.

Sandwiches take stick to baguette

The fashion-conscious French are turning to British sandwiches for the latest in chic cuisine. Several supermarket chains now import sandwiches every day, according to executives at the biggest food show in Europe. English bread and imaginative fillings are said to compare favourably with a staple diet of ham or cheese baguettes.



Mourners gather for a service held in almost complete silence at the cemetery in Aberfan on the thirtieth anniversary of the disaster

BUSINESS

Initiative: The Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday struck a deal with the CBI to invigorate the highly criticised private finance initiative.

SPORT

Football: Tottenham Hotspur are leading the chase to sign Trevor Sinclair, the Queens Park Rangers forward, interesting several Premiership clubs.

ARTS

Poet of dance: Canadian choreographer Edouard Lock brings his company La La Human Steps and his apocalyptic vision back to Britain for a tour which opens tonight.

FEATURES

In Praise of Boredom: Day two - life's main medium is repetition. Joseph Brodsky wrote in his collected essays, *On Grief and Reason*.

Privatisation: British investors are set to make a profit of up to £400 million from the flotation of Deutsche Telekom, the German phone group.

Rugby union: David Campese will become only the second player to take part in 100 international matches when he plays for Australia against Italy tomorrow.

Picasso's people: Richard Cork on the monumental exhibition in Paris devoted to Pablo Picasso's unsurpassed portraits of family, friends and enemies.

Making heads meet: The political hostess is back. Dinner parties are again the fashionable way to mix politics with pleasure.

Burton: David Krantz made his second fortune yesterday, pocketing around £15 million from the sale to Burton of the Racing Green home shopping business he founded five years ago.

Baseball: Andruw Jones, at 19 years and six months, became the youngest player to hit a home run in a World Series game, helping the Atlanta Braves to a 12-1 win over the New York Yankees.

Three sopranos: After the success of the three tenors, the women strike back as America's Three Sopranos almost fill the London Palladium.

Living in the past: Peter Saunders is still haunted by the memories of being sexually abused by a family friend as a child.

Markets: The FTSE 100 reached a new record high of 4073.1 following a 20.0 point increase. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 89.3 to 89.0.

Golf: Can Tiger Woods, who attracted a multimillion dollar investment when he turned professional, live up to his billing?

Foxy lady: The revival of David Pountney's 16-year-old production of *Cunning Little Vixen*, an ENO favourite, does not quite live up to expectations.

Stopping stalkers: It is easy to promise action but less easy to achieve results, says Neil Addison in the wake of proposals to deal with the problem.



IN THE TIMES TOP WRITERS Nigella Lawson and Alan Coren, our regular Wednesday columnists



INTERFACE Two multimedia notebooks worth £2,889 each to be won in our weekly technology guide

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The German occupation of the Channel Islands still ripples. Witness (Channel 4, 9pm). Review: Lynne Truss wonders if Helen Mirren's detective is losing her grip.

OPINION

Pulpit and politics Although its prescriptions may not be all right for this fallen world, and the Church's eyes should always be fixed on the next, the Roman Catholic manifesto is a worthwhile contribution to a widening debate.

A provisional verdict

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party has yet to recover the voters' confidence. It is back only on sufferance, and only in the absence of a convincing alternative.

Querries in Brussels

There is a widespread belief that too many scandals have gone unanswered in Belgium, too many crimes unsolved.

COLUMNS

MICHAEL HOWARD We are setting up secure centres to provide a disciplined and secure environment in which a concentrated effort will be made to make them see the error of their ways.

LIBBY PURVES

But what's the point? The more crowded the prison system becomes, the lower its quality. Even if you do not care how miserably convicts live - and God knows, there are some it is impossible to wish well - you cannot deny that the less thoughtful and creative prisons are, the less likely they are ever to turn anybody into a useful or at least harmless citizen.

OBITUARY

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, Controller of the Navy and former chairman of British Shipbuilders; Bill Bedford, former test pilot for Hawker Aircraft and pioneer of vertical flight in the Harrier jet; Sir Jeremy Rowe, former chairman of the London Brick Company.

LETTERS

Reporting of Rachel Nickell evidence; flawed funding damages NHS; musical education; Cheltenham College; Labour's way ahead; opera defended; poetic licence; bullying; prisoners on the run.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,305

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points for words.

ACROSS 1 Visualised skeleton as being needed in theatre (8). 5 Way to fix a form of diet (6). 10 Uses special shears to cut garden flowers (5). 11 Sections of a support column nearly top Northern hill (9). 12 Listen to sound of one falling in the garden? (9). 13 Present said to provide comfort (5). 14 Care needed, moving about in auction (7). 16 Gives up return on investment (6). 17 Landing at end of this flight (6). 21 Party in small lakeside dwelling (7). 23 Bone needs most healthy piece put back (5). 25 Painter of 'The Boy in Blue' (9).

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions. AA Car reports by fax. Hours of Darkness.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales cloudy. In east and southeastern areas, the cloud will break to give sunny spells. In the west, the cloud will be thick enough to get drizzle on coasts and hills.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b= bright, c= cloud, d= drizzle, dd= dust storm, du= dust, l= haze, lg= fog, g= gale, h= hail, f= rain, sh= shower, s= snow, sn= snow, st= sun, t= thunder.

Weather maps showing pressure systems (LOW, HIGH) and weather icons (Sunny, Cloudy, Rain, etc.) across the UK.

ABROAD

Table of weather conditions for various international locations including Moscow, London, Paris, etc.

HIGH TIDES

Table of high tide times for various locations like London Bridge, Liverpool, etc.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Summary of highest and lowest temperatures and rainfall for various locations.

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WPA logo and contact information for Western Provident Association.

Lifeboats advertisement: Total number of lives saved so far this year: 751. Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 3,631.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'GET IN STEP', 'Rates', 'TV to Vill', 'Franco-German plan for E...', 'Double your luck', 'Letters charge', 'The Times on the Internet', and 'TV & RADIO WEATHER CROSSWORDS'.